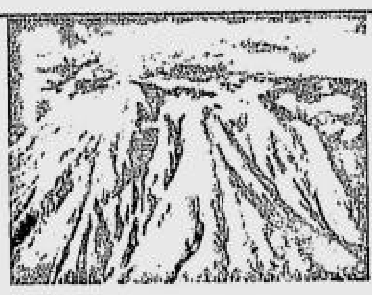
METRO / A19

Supreme Court orders suspension of Caloocan judge convicted of child abuse

NEWS / A3

Bulusan explodes 9 times, spews ash over 3 towns



MOTORING / B8

15 things to bring on road trip on All Saints' Day

NEWS / A2

International lawyers group pressures gov't to solve bishop's killing

Scam artists cashing in on fake American Dream

MADALI PA NAMAN MAGOYO ANG PINOY!

IT IS APPARENTLY THE most coveted raffle prize for anyone harboring the American Dream. But unfortunately for Filipinos, they have long been disqualified from this annual draw.

The US Embassy in

SCAM ARTISTS/ A5

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, October 11, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 305
website: www.in

Defiant PRC chair says GMA's order improper, calls Brion, Ang intruders

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG'S FLIP-FLOP ON THE controversial nursing licensure examination yesterday degenerated into a Cabinet row at a Senate hearing on the budget of the Professional Regulation Commission.

PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero attacked Labor Secretary Arturo Brion and Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Chair Dante Ang, calling them "intruders." The two men, who were not present at the hearing, are pushing for a retake, while Rosero has stuck to her stand against it.

Rosero also said President Macapagal-Arroyo's order transferring the PRC to the labor department was "improper."

Brion later denied being a "*pakialamero*" (meddler), and said he would investigate the PRC's "inaction, negligence or omission" on the leak of test questions that had marred the exam.

Ang said Rosero could not "comprehend the damage" she had done to the nursing profession, but said he was forgiving her for accusing him of doing a demolition job.

Rosero, a topnotcher of the dental board exam and Ms Arroyo's dentist, was defiant when she talked about her differences with Malacañang on the proposed retake and the transfer of the PRC from the Office of the President to the Department of Labor and Employment.

"Up to this time, our stand is no retake. It is those people who have been intruding and doing a demolition job [on] the PRC," she said when Sen. Franklin Drilon, finance committee chair, questioned her about the scandal.

When Drilon asked her to name names, Rosero said Brion had been de-

DEFIANT/ A10

Nurses in limbo, take call center jobs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT A NUMBER OF those who passed the June nursing licensure examination have found jobs, but the bad news is that some of them are now call center agents, research assistants—and nurses on probation.

"We come from reputable schools. We believed that hospitals would not think twice in accepting us," 21-year-old Joanna Espinoza of the University of the Philippines College of Nursing said at a press conference in Manila on Monday.

Espinoza and 17 other graduates of UP, University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay, University of Santo Tomas and Far Eastern University

NURSES/ A10

NO
RETAKE
RETAKE

GRIM REAPER. The nursing licensure exam last June continues to reap protests from passers across the nation. At Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila on Tuesday, protesters chant slogans and play the blame game. REUTERS

World to punish Nokor

ROAD TO BEIJING

No money, no honey in taekwondo

By Francis Ochoa

(Last of a series)

T-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

HONG SUNG-CHON knows the harsh reality of the Olympic goal. It's going to take money.

"It's an investment," says the Korean president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association (PTA).

By Hong's estimate, it's going to take around P10 to P15 million to support the PTA's bid for a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympiad. Such an amount doesn't assure any athlete of the gold medal just yet.

The key word here is, of course, support.

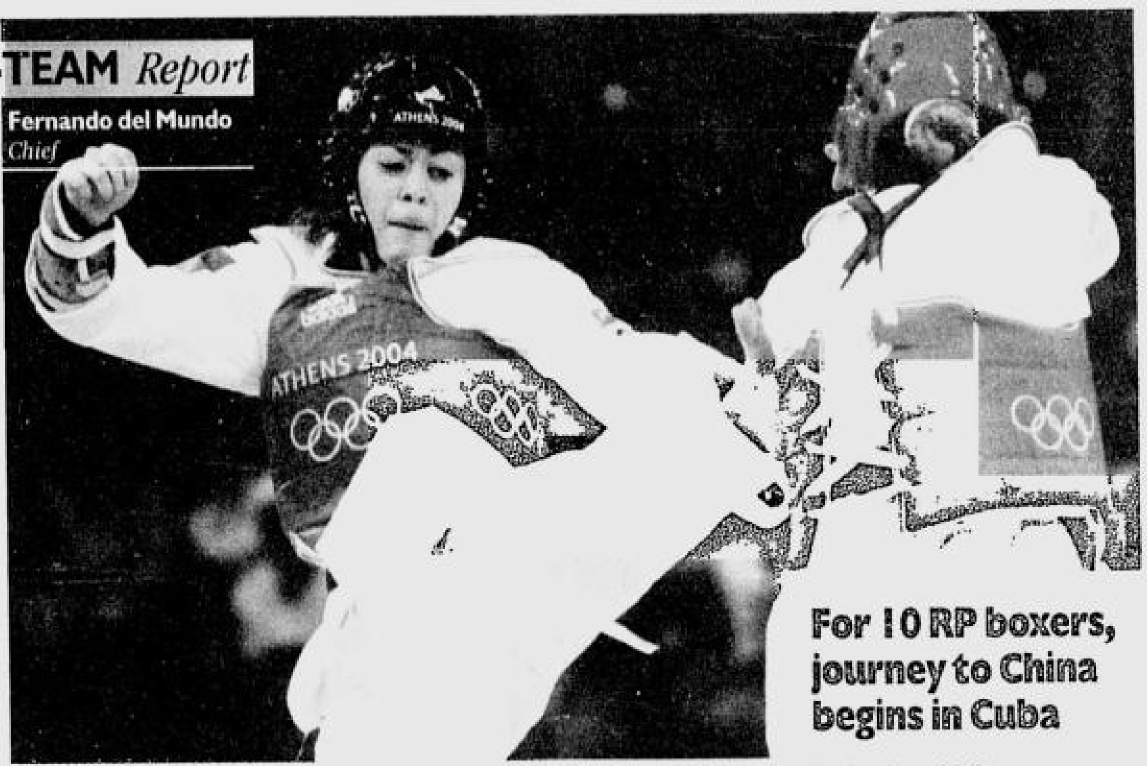
It's a cold, cruel truth, no matter how hard Hong tries to warm it up with his trademark sense of humor.

"It's just like in boxing and taekwondo," he says. "No punch, no point. No kick, no point ... No money, no honey."

The Philippine Sports Commission, a generous source of financing for one of the country's most productive and least politicized national sports associations, is just too small an organization to bankroll the country's bid for its first gold medal.

"It has to be something bigger, something no less than the president of the country oversees. Something like the Gintong Alay," Hong says, referring to the effort to produce medal winners during the Ferdinand Marcos years.

NO MONEY/ A10



INSTILLING PRIDE in being a national player costs plenty. Mary Antoinette Rivero (left) of the Philippines competes against Vanina Sanchez Beron of Argentina in the women's under 67-kg taekwondo at the last Olympic Games in Athens. AP

Boxing is RP's best bet for 1st Olympic gold medal

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN AMATEUR boxing since bantamweight Jose "Cely" Villanueva punched his way to the bronze medal in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics.

Now, rules are different, technique has evolved scientifically and boxers, given the right mix of sound fundamentals and state-of-the art training, can evolve into fearsome fighting machines.

But one thing has remained constant: The country is still in a seemingly never-ending search for the Holy Grail of Philippine sports—an Olympic gold medal.

BOXING/ A10

For 10 RP boxers, journey to China begins in Cuba

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—FOR 10 Filipino boxers, the road to Beijing will begin in Cuba.

When they get there before yearend, they will undergo rigid training in preparation for the Olympic pre-qualifying tournament against other Asian boxers in December 2007.

Joey Recimilla, North Cotabato province point man for the Governors National Amateur Boxing Circuit, says those who will win gold and silver medals will go to the Beijing Games in 2008.

FOR 10 RP/ A11

US leads weapons, financial embargo

UNITED NATIONS—WITH WORLD LEADERS roundly condemning North Korea's announcement it had carried out a nuclear test, United Nations Security Council members weighed an arms embargo and financial sanctions on Pyongyang.

The United States drafted a resolution calling for international inspections of all cargo moving into and out of North Korea to detect weapons-related material, a freeze on any transfer or development of weapons of mass destruction and a ban on luxury goods. The draft was to be discussed yesterday.

Japan proposed even more stringent measures in amendments to the document from US Ambassador John Bolton, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters. These included banning all North Korean ships and planes from all ports if they carried nuclear or ballistic missile-related materials.

Tokyo's UN Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, the current Security Council president, said members condemned the test and "emphasized that the response of the council should be strong, swift and very, very clear in its message and its action."

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun vowed to review his "sunshine policy" of engagement with the reclusive state. Newspaper commentators slammed him for being too soft, with one declaring the country in its worst crisis since the Korean War more than half a century ago.

Australia said it would impose a range of measures on North Korea, including curtailing visas and

WORLD TO/ A5

12 killed, 31 hurt in N. Cotabato bombing

By Jeoffrey Maitem and Edwin O. Fernandez
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST 12 people were killed when a bomb exploded near the town hall of Makilala, North Cotabato, at 8 last night, officials said. *(See related stories on Pages A9 and A15).*

The explosion occurred in a plaza where a row of commercial stalls, a carnival and cultural presentations in a nearby gymnasium had attracted crowds this week as Makilala celebrated its 52nd foundation anniversary.

Earlier yesterday, the United States Embassy in Manila had warned that it had received "credible information" that a terrorist group might be plotting bomb attacks, particularly in cities in central Mindanao, "over the next several days."

Makilala Mayor Onofre Respicio said an unidentified man left a

12 KILLED/ A4

RAFFY LERMA

OMBUDSMAN GUTIERREZ defends ruling: Where were complainants in the graft case during the 12 hearing days?

Ombudsman: No crime, no reversal of SC ruling

By Norman Bordadora and Jerome Aning

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN did not reverse the Supreme Court decision when an Ombudsman panel said there was no evidence of criminal liability against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos and other officials involved in the voided P1.3-billion poll automation deal, Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said yesterday.

"Did the Supreme Court say that there was a crime involving the Mega Pacific contract? There was none. If there was a crime, the Supreme Court would have ordered the confiscation of the counting machines as they are the proceeds of a crime," Gutierrez said at her first news conference after approving an Ombudsman panel resolution clearing Abalos and the others.

Gutierrez was out of the country when the panel chaired by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro announced the controversial resolution on Oct. 2.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga had called the Ombudsman resolution "an unthinkable reversal" of the Supreme Court decision that voided the Comelec's contract with Mega Pacific.

In its January 2004 decision, the Supreme Court said the awarding of the contract to Mega Pacific violated the law and the Comelec's own bid-

OMBUDSMAN/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/10/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Ethics probe of Enrile pressed

By TJ Burgonio

THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE ON Monday pressed the chamber's leadership to reconstitute the ethics committee to hear the complaint filed by former senator Rene Saguisag against Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile for alleged unethical behavior during a hearing into government-sequestered corporations.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. moved for the reconvening of the ethics committee after he delivered a speech bewailing Enrile's threatening to slap him at the height of their debate on the antiterror bill last week.

Pimentel nominated his colleagues in the minority—Senators Panfilo Lacson, Jamby Madrigal and Alfredo Lim—to the committee. "This should be convened immediately," he said. The ethics committee has been without members and a chair since Franklin Drilon was Senate President.

Current Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., however, said convening the ethics committee was not a priority at this time since Congress was set to adjourn on Thursday for a three-week break.

Last week, Saguisag asked the Senate to investigate Enrile for his conduct during the inquiry into the losses of certain government-sequestered corporations, for possible violation of ethical standards.

Enrile's family has a 6-percent stake in Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), a firm formerly controlled by cronies of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and which is now 35-percent owned by the government.

The losses of POTC, as well as of related sequestered companies Philcomsat and Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), have been the subject of an inquiry by the Senate committee on government corporations chaired by Sen. Richard Gordon.

Saguisag, the lawyer for officials of one sequestered company, said Enrile, who had inhibited himself but continued to participate in the proceedings, was "thereby arguably lawyering for his family for pecuniary gain."

Int'l lawyers prod gov't on bishop's slay

A VISITING INTERNATIONAL group of human rights lawyers has condemned the killing of Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento and vowed to make sure the international community knows about it.

The International Association of People's Lawyers, which begins a four-day conference in Davao tomorrow, includes human rights lawyers from Greece, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Turkey, Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Philippines.

The congress will take up the Ramento killing as well as the overall human rights situation in the Philippines, said Belgian delegate Jo Dereymaeker.

Dereymaeker and six IAPL delegates, including IAPL vice president Edre Olalia, yesterday visited the wake of Ramento at the Iglesia Filipina Independiente's National Cathedral in Manila.

"I was shocked not only because the victim was a bishop, but also with the way he was killed," said Dereymaeker who said she had met Ramento last year.

Ramento, the Supreme Bishop of the IFI, or the Aglipayan Church, was stabbed to death in his convent in Tarlac last Oct. 3. The Philippine National Police has declared the killing solved with the arrest of four petty thieves in Tarlac last week.

Moral pressure

But the Ramento family and various activist groups have dismissed the police findings, claiming that the bishop, a fierce anti-government critic, was killed for political reasons.

Olalia said the IAPL delegates would come up with a resolution at the end of the conference "exerting moral and political pressure on the Arroyo government at the very least."

Dereymaeker said the congress would also most likely call for an independent investigation into the murder.

"I think it's strange that police already had an explanation. There should have been a more thorough investigation. The bishop had been receiving death threats," she said.

Malacañang yesterday appealed to groups contesting the police findings to refrain from putting political color into the Ramento killing.

"Let us not prematurely judge these incidents," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said it was evident that the recent killings were being used as a tool "destabilize the government."

"We should remove any political color in these killings. Otherwise those behind these killings would only be encouraged to do so," said Gonzales, adding that the investigation be left to authorities.

In Congress, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has filed a resolution urging the Senate to look into the killing of Ramento because of the doubts being cast on the police investigation.

He noted the report of a nine-member fact-finding team from church and human rights groups which found the police conclusion "haphazard and incredible" as well as contrary to medical and scientific facts.

He noted that the IFI was the most political of all the Christian churches, often taking strong positions against the establishment.

Nationalist church

"As a known nationalist church, it has a more definitive vision of utopia as manifested in an ideology of nationalism and a strategy of protest and activism," Magsaysay said.

The IFI is a national church that was borne out of the Philippine Revolution against Spain. It separated from the papacy at that time, but has since come to a "modus vivendi" with the Catholic Church, whose sacraments, liturgy and basic credo it shares, the senator said.

At the House, Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidoro Real Jr. and Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy called on police authorities to make a more thorough investigation of the Ramento killing while urging Aglipayan bishops to suspend judgment pending a final resolution of the case.

"They can file charges if they have the evidence that the Ramento slay case is politically motivated," said Real, a vice chair of the House committee on good government.

He also cautioned militant groups against claiming that Ramento was a victim of an extra-judicial killing.

"Using the political angle just to hit government is an affront to the name of the good bishop," he said. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño*

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Bulusan explodes 9 times spewing ash over 3 towns

LEGAZPI CITY—MT. BULUSAN IN SORSOGON exploded nine times yesterday, hurling clouds of ash up to 3 kilometers in the air that fell in the towns of Casiguran, Irosin and Bulan.

Director Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said more explosions could occur and advised local residents the 4-km permanent danger zone around the 1,565-meter-high volcano "remained off-limits to the public."

He said Phivolcs was maintaining alert level 1 over Bulusan "because of its abnormal state at present."

Alex Baloloy, science research analyst of Phivolcs-Bicol, said the areas immediately affected by the ashfalls were villages at the foot of the volcano. The ash explosions started at 5:16 p.m.

Baloloy said the Phivolcs observatory in Bulusan had reported volcanic earthquakes during the past few days. The volcano was being closely watched after a series of ash explosions earlier this year.

"This is expected because it's on alert level 1. We're still evaluating whether we would raise the alert level," said Solidum in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

"Whether this will lead to other activities is what we have to find out. We need to know if there is movement of magma in the volcano," Solidum said.

Bulusan's last ash explosion occurred on June 20. On July 29, Phivolcs lowered its alert level from 2 to 1, which meant there was volcanic activity but no threat of an eruption soon.

Bulusan experienced nine ash explosions since March 21, prompting school closures and the evacuation of some communities. The explosions also caused lahar flows at the onset of the rainy season in June.

Casiguran Mayor Edwin Hamor said yesterday's explosions were a "beautiful" sight.

"The explosions looked like lightning in heaven," Hamor said while checking the situation at Barangay Inlagadian, some 4 km from Bulusan's crater.

He said trucks were on standby in case the affected villages needed to be evacuated.

Bulusan in Sorsogon is the fourth most active volcano in the Philippines. It has erupted at least 15 times, with the last incident occurring in November 1994 and lasting up to January 1995. The eruption affected more than 45,000 residents of the towns of Bulusan, Barcelona, Casiguran, Juban, Irosin and Gubat. *Niño Orbeta, Ephraim Aguilar; Joanna Los Baños and Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon; with Blanche S. Rivera and Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research, in Manila*

Marcos crony's bid to quash case denied

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS THROWN OUT the motion to dismiss the ill-gotten wealth suit filed against Marcos crony Rodolfo Cuenca, founder of the defunct Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines, now known as the Philippine National Construction Corp.

In a 23-page resolution last Oct. 5, the Sandiganbayan Third Division upheld the case against Cuenca, said to be a close associate of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

The court, however, dismissed the case against Cuenca's co-accused-former Philippine National Bank president Panfilo O. Domingo and former CDCP treasurer Nora O. Vinluan-for lack of evidence.

"Insofar as defendant Cuenca is concerned, we find the existence of greater weight of evidence or probability of the truth of the allegations constituting plaintiff's causes of action against said defendant," the Third Division said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government had filed a forfeiture case against Cuenca and several others.

The PCGG alleged that Cuenca used his ties with the Marcos family to acquire ill-gotten wealth.

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Ma. Luisa Orendain, freedom fighter; 86

MA. LUISA GAERLAN ORENDAIN PASSED away on Oct. 8. She was 86.

Orendain was only 16 and in high school when she began writing for the Baguio Bulletin, a sister paper of the Manila Bulletin.

She married her editor-mentor, Juan C. Orendain who became the Philippines' first Press Secretary under President Manuel Roxas.

In an era when public relations was not considered the unsavory profession it is today, she was known as the mother of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, which she and six gentlemen founded. Max Edralin is the last remaining survivor of the group.

An AP wire photo that resonated around the world symbolizing the Filipinos' defiance of the Marcos regime was of one woman waving a banner. Standing rigid and unflinching, banner held aloft, the freedom fighter faced a phalanx of menacing cops, some armed with shields and truncheons, some holding powerful water cannons. That woman photographed on Dec. 10, 1984, Human Rights Day, was Louise Orendain.

Of Kankana-ey, Ilocano and Spanish descent, she was writing Chapter 37 of a book on the Cordilleras. Although unfinished, she had covered the centuries from 1727 up to 1910, signifying that her book, when published, will be of some value to historians. Her father, Juan Gaerlan, was a well-loved governor of the Mountain Province, and later, a senator in the Commonwealth.

The former editor of the Catholic missionary magazine, The Call, Orendain died while delivering a short speech at her own birthday party. She was talking about how happy she was when she collapsed.

She is survived by her children Joan, Jane, Mac, Dolly and Chippy, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park in Sucat, after the 8 a.m. Mass on Friday at the Malate Church Mortuary, where her body lies in state.

RP cited by AI on death penalty

By Norman Bordadora

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL YESTERDAY cited the Philippines for taking the lead in abolishing the death penalty in a region where countries refuse to do away with capital punishment.

AI, which earlier scored the Philippines for the series of alleged extra-judicial killings dating back to 2001, lauded the country for its abolition of the death penalty in the wake of its membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"The Asia Pacific is a region that has bucked the worldwide trend to abolish the death penalty," the London-based organization said in a statement.

All countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, except the Philippines, retain the death penalty for a wide variety of crimes. In some countries—notably Singapore and Vietnam—the number of executions is believed to have risen sharply in recent years, according to AI.

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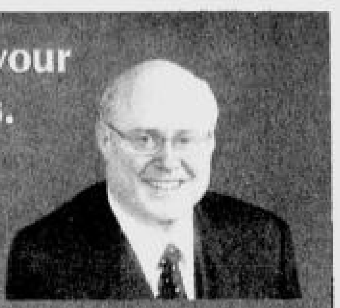

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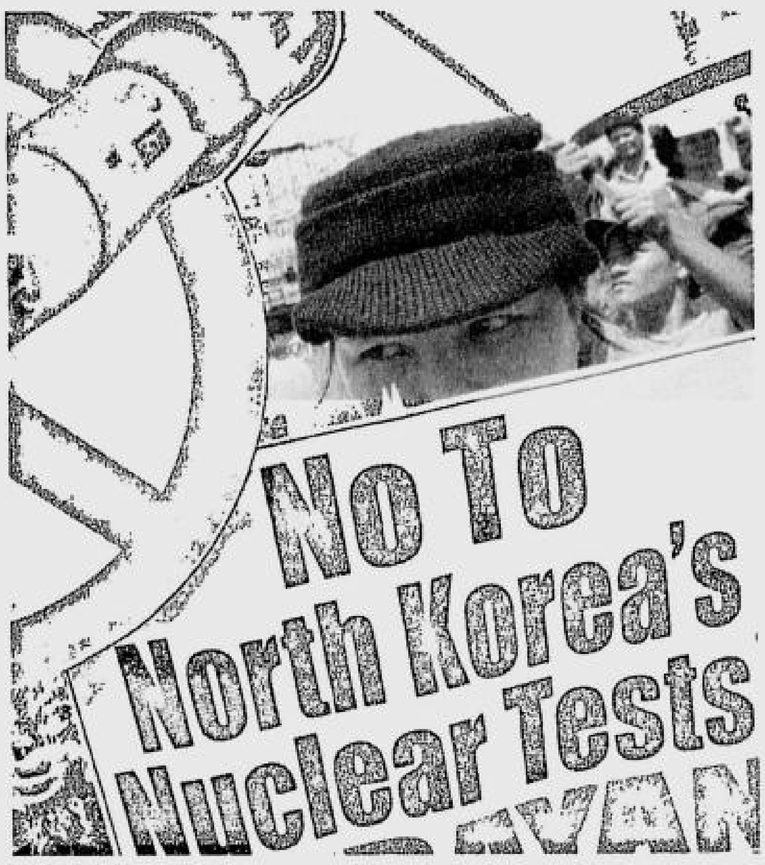

No To North Korea's Nuclear Tests

"A THREAT to political security and economic stability in northeast Asia," members of a militant group says in a statement during their protest rally on Tuesday.
JOAN BONDOC

DFA ready to evacuate 50,000 Filipinos

By Volt Contreras

A CONTINGENCY PLAN 36-PAGES THICK IS ready in case the Korean peninsula becomes an uneasy place for Filipinos, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

DFA spokesperson Ed Malaya assured families with members working in the two Koreas that forward-thinking and planning were in place "in case these contingency plans are needed."

Malaya declined to give details of the plan during a briefing, but said it was last "updated" in August by the Philippine Embassy in Seoul as a matter of standard operating procedure "in case of civil disturbances and similar events."

Quoting a report sent to the DFA yesterday morning by Ambassador to Seoul Susan Castrence, Malaya said the South Korean capital "appears normal" after the North ignored international appeals and detonated its first atomic bomb on Monday.

The people of South Korea were "concerned but relatively unperturbed" by the latest actions of its reclusive communist neighbor, Malaya said, quoting from Castrence's report.

There are about 50,000 Filipinos in South Korea, some 65 percent of them employed in factories and in the retail, services and construction sectors, according to DFA figures. They also include industrial trainees and spouses of Korean nationals.

In North Korea, Malaya said, there were only "18 Filipinos (there) whose presence are known" to the Philippine Embassy in Seoul. He clarified, though, that Pyongyang was under the jurisdiction of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jerome Aning and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

12 killed . . .

From page A1

package in a plastic bag at a stall after he bought something.

Minutes later, there was an explosion.

"I was so saddened by what happened. I condemn this act of terrorism," Respicio said.

Respicio told the INQUIRER that 12 people were killed while 25 others were wounded.

Later, officials in Kidapawan City where the victims were brought said there were at least 31 injured.

Speaking on local radio, town police chief Supt. Frederico Dulay said the police "suspect that an 81-mm mortar was used by the perpetrators."

Dulay said police had recovered from the blast site parts of an 81-mm mortar.

In an advisory to its citizens, the US Embassy said that "although there is no specific targeting information, US citizens should avoid travel to cities in central Mindanao."

The embassy did not specify the source of the threat.

Two Philippine security officials monitoring the area said the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and its local ally, the Abu Sayyaf, had long planned bombings in Mindanao.

They said the capture last week of JI militant Dulmatin's wife, Istiada Binti Oemar Sovie, might have expedited the plan in retaliation for her arrest. The officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Dulmatin, an al-Qaida-linked militant, is among Asia's most wanted terrorist suspects, mainly for his alleged role in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. *AP*

Correction

IN THE OCT. 7 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Esperat killers get life but brains free"—misspelled the name of the executive director of the Philippine Press Institute. The PPI executive director's name is Jose Pavia—not Fabia.

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World to punish North Korea

From page A1

supporting any UN sanctions.

But a defiant North Korea further stoked tensions by threatening to fire a nuclear-tipped missile if the United States did not return to the negotiating table. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported out of Beijing yesterday that the North Korean official scoffed at sanctions and demanded concessions from Washington.

"We hope the situation will be resolved before an unfortunate incident of us firing a nuclear missile comes," the unnamed official said a day earlier, according to Yonhap. "That depends on how the US will act.

US resolution

No vote has been scheduled as the 15 council members sent the US resolution to their capitals, although British Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry hoped for adoption by the end of the week.

Among the five powers with veto rights, Britain and France pressed for sanctions, although neither country said whether all the measures Washington had proposed were acceptable.

Russia and China were cautious. "I think we have to react firmly, but also I believe that, on the other hand, that the door to solve this issue from a diplomatic point of view is still open," China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said.

Doubts on Nokor claim

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Jianchao declined to rule out possible UN sanctions against North Korea. Asked what China thought of the possibility of military action, Liu told a news conference: "I think this is an unimaginable way."

Still, there were some doubts of North Korea's claim.

US President George W. Bush said intelligence officials were still trying to confirm Pyongyang's announcement on Monday that it had carried out an underground nuclear weapons test.

But Bush said that the claim itself "constitutes a threat to international peace and security."

Bolton, according to ambassadors at a closed-door meeting, wants to limit North Korea's ability to import or export nuclear or ballistic missile technology. The draft resolution also calls for an end to Pyongyang's access to illicit funds, including its alleged manufacture of counterfeit US dollars.

"We think it's important to respond even to the claim of a nuclear test by the North Koreans and we'll be going 24/7 if we need to get this resolution adopted quickly," Bolton said.

The US proposals highlighted the Proliferation Security Initiative that Washington launched in May 2003 to encourage member countries to interdict weapons from North Korea, Iran and other states of concern.

Arms-related sanctions

The Security Council has already imposed weapons-related sanctions on North Korea in Resolution 1695 in July and many of the new US proposals repeat or strengthen those measures.

Separately, Washington has an array of sanctions on the economically devastated country, including a ban on military items and financial restrictions. The Bush administration has considered reimposing trade prohibitions lifted by then President Bill Clinton when Pyongyang agreed to a missile moratorium it then abandoned on July 4.

Both China and Russia have suggested the United States reengage in bilateral talks, but there is no sign Washington would do so unless North Korea rejoined six-party talks.

The two Koreas, China, Japan, the United States and Russia have held talks aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program in exchange for economic incentives. But North Korea walked out of them a year ago and refuses to return until Washington ends a financial squeeze.

Return to 6-party talks

China's foreign ministry said it was taking active steps to encourage North Korea to return to the six-party talks but warned Pyongyang that it had damaged relations with the only country that comes close to being its ally.

Pyongyang's declaration was a sharp blow to Chinese President Hu Jintao's doctrine of using economic and diplomatic coaxing to end North Korea's drive to become a nuclear weapons state.

"We think the UN Security Council should take appropriate action," ministry spokesperson Liu said, adding that Beijing was still mulling what that action should be.

The yen hit an eight-month low against the dollar on talk that Pyongyang had conducted a second test, extending losses after North Korea's announcement the day before.

Japan effectively froze remittances and transfers to North Korea by those suspected of links to the development of weapons of mass destruction after missile tests by Pyongyang in July.

However, officials in Tokyo made clear that, before adding fresh sanctions, Japan wanted confirmation of whether the underground test declared by North Korea actually took place.

'Grave threat' to Japan

"This is an especially grave threat and challenge to the security of our nation," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a parliament committee. "Should we confirm this, we need to swiftly take our own tough measures against North Korea."

A US official said it could take several days for intelligence analysts to determine whether the event in an area near North Korea's border with China was an unsuccessful nuclear test, a small nuclear device or a nonnuclear explosion.

"If it was a nuclear test, it appears to be more of a fizzle than a pop," the official said.

Officials in Japan, South Korea and China all said they had not detected any change in radiation levels.

Analysts say North Korea probably has enough fissile material to make six to eight nuclear bombs but probably lacks the technology to devise one small enough to mount on a missile.

US Democrats, eager to oust Republicans from control of Congress in next month's mid-term elections, wasted no time on Tuesday in accusing President George W. Bush of being in a state of denial about North Korea as he pursued a war in Iraq. *Reports from Reuters and AP*

BIGGER THAN LIFE. After the astounding announcement of the North Korean government on Monday, life goes on in the capital Pyongyang, like its people routinely paying their respects before the statue of their former leader, Kim Il-Sung, father of the ruling Kim Jong-Il AP

Scam artists cashing in on fake American …

From page A1

Manila yesterday issued a warning against scam artists out to lure Filipinos with false hopes of winning the 2007 US Diversity Visa Lottery.

"While Filipino citizens born in the Philippines are not eligible for this program, the US Embassy is concerned that some innocent citizens may fall prey to criminals who try to make money by claiming they can help you win an immigrant visa in the DV lottery," the mission said in a statement.

Under the DV program, 50,000 US immigrant visas are made available each year to people who come from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

Citizens from countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the past five years are excluded from the selection. The US Embassy processes more than 50,000 immigrant visa applications in Manila every year.

The US Department of State's National Visa Center holds the lottery every year, choosing "winners" randomly from all qualified entries.

Fraud schemes

Those selected will also have the opportunity to apply for permanent residence which, if granted, would authorize them to live and work permanently in the United States. They will also be allowed to bring their spouses and any unmarried children under the age of 21 to the United States.

The lottery process for the 2007 program has officially started—and this is that time of the year when "fraud schemes resurface" targeting aspiring immigrants, the embassy said.

"If you receive an e-mail, phone call, or letter saying you have won the US Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery, the US Embassy urges you to be cautious. Do not pay any money to individuals claiming they can help you get a diversity visa," it said.

Victims are usually told that they have won a visa and that they must send a "clearance/acceptance fee" in order to claim the visa.

"Sadly, the only 'winner' is the criminal who takes your money," the embassy said.

"That's the lesson that some hopeful immigrants throughout the world are learning the hard way as a result of fraud schemes that resurface every year."

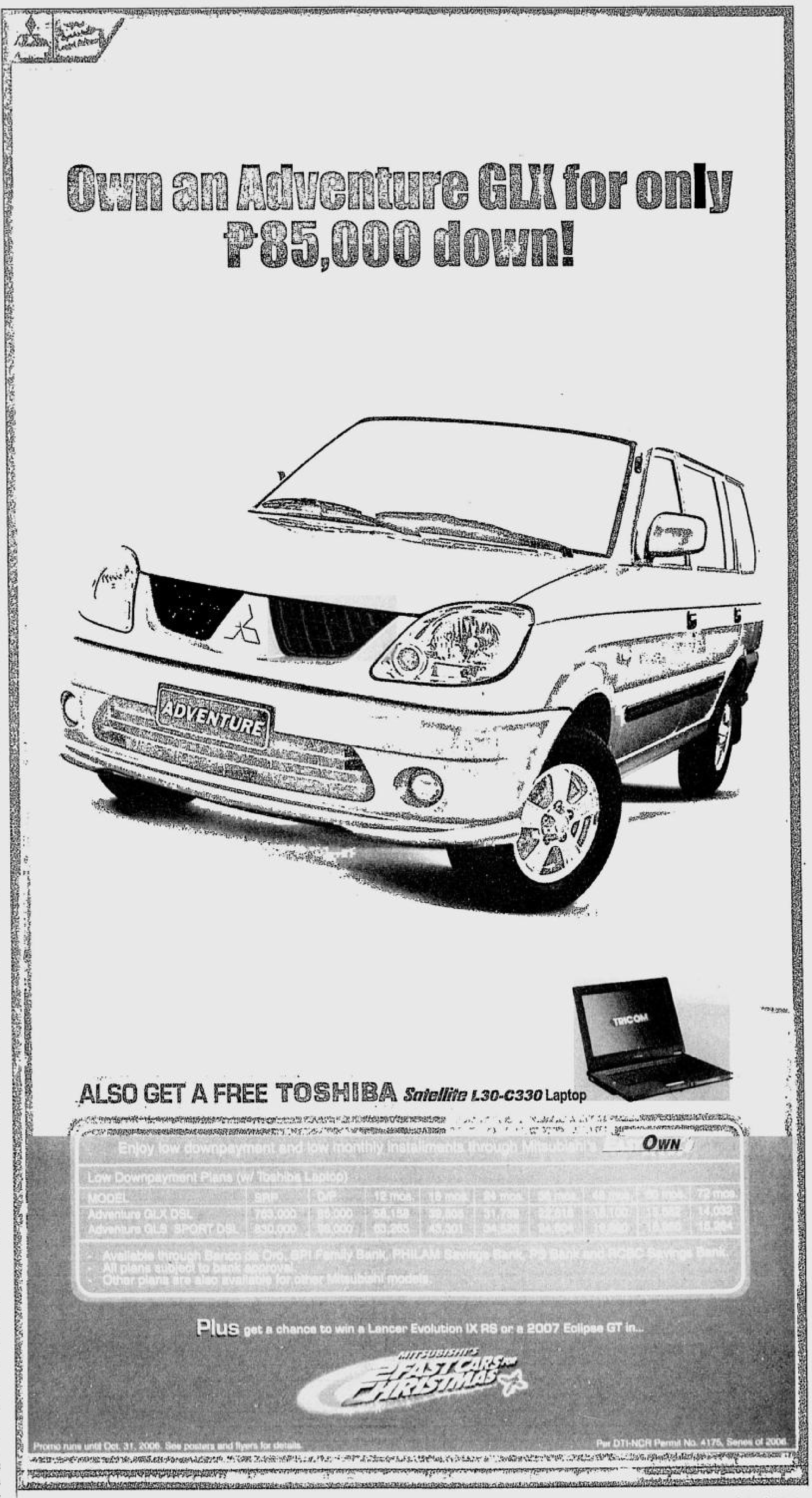
Official-looking e-mails

The most common racket involves the use of "official-looking e-mails and websites designed to copy the US state department website or e-mail communications," it said.

(The real sites to consult on US immigration or visa matters are http://philippines.usembassy.gov/, www.travel.state.gov, and www.unitedstatesvisas.gov)

The victims would then receive an e-mail congratulating them on winning the DV Lottery and giving them directions on how to pay the "fees."

"Do not trust someone who offers or guarantees—for a fee—a diversity visa or any other type of US benefit," the embassy warned. *Volt Contreras*



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Ombudsman: No …

From page A1

ding rules. The high court had also said that Mega Pacific's counting machines were vulnerable to "election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few strokes."

Like Salonga, Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee that investigated the Mega Pacific deal, said the Ombudsman in effect ignored the Supreme Court and the Senate, which found the deal anomalous.

"This decision of the Ombudsgirl is unprecedented, outrageous and shocking," Arroyo had said at a press conference on Oct. 3, apparently referring to Gutierrez.

Complainants snubbed probe

Gutierrez said the panel received no evidence that substantially showed criminal liability, malice and bad faith on the part of any of the respondents.

She said the complainants in the graft case against Abalos et al. practically snubbed the panel probe when they had the chance to present evidence of criminal intent against the respondents.

"We had 12 public hearings in the Comelec case. We called and invited all the complainants, witnesses and all others with interest in the case—many from civil society groups, NGOs and others listed," Gutierrez said in Filipino.

"But the complainants didn't actively participate and failed to submit their evidence in the 12 hearing days," she said.

The complainants included Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Kilosbayan Foundation Inc. headed by Salonga.

Never invited

"We did our duty in accordance with the law, in accordance with the Supreme Court directive and based on the evidence that we received," Gutierrez said.

"We gave all those interested in the case [the chance] to attend and actively participate in our public hearings. However, it's sad to see that when the investigation is already done, we see and hear them on radio, on television and in the newspapers airing their views, criticizing our decision," she said.

But Augusto Lagman, president of Information Technology Foundation (ITF), said the Ombudsman did not invite his group. "There never was any invitation. If there was any invitation I don't know where it was sent to," he said.

Even if ITF had been invited, there was no need to present additional evidence because the Supreme Court ruling "clearly stated" that Comelec officials had committed grave abuse of discretion in awarding the automation contract to Mega Pacific, Lagman said.

Santiago defends Ombudsman

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the Ombudsman was well within its powers to exonerate the Comelec officials, and expressed her belief the Ombudsman would be upheld in the Supreme Court.

Santiago said that in its 2004 decision nullifying the deal, the high court directed the Ombudsman to determine the criminal liability, if any, of certain Comelec officials.

"The Supreme Court did not order the Ombudsman to file criminal charges," she said.

Santiago said that while the Supreme Court may direct the Ombudsman, an independent constitutional body, to investigate cases, the high court may not order it to make a finding one way or the other.

"I am so sure of my constitutional grounds that I challenge the opposition to file a petition with the Supreme Court against the Ombudsman and Comelec officials led by Chair Abalos," the senator said.

She said she was sure that any petition to question the Ombudsman's resolution and the clearance granted to Abalos would not be upheld.

Pimentel said he would file a petition asking the Supreme Court to reverse the Ombudsman's decision.

Santiago said the opposition had failed to establish evidence that a crime had been committed by the Comelec officials.

"If the opposition has no such proof, it should shut up instead of agitating the people over picayune legal points exaggerated beyond reason," she said.

Contrary report

Mary Lopez, another member of the panel, said the committee had considered the report submitted by the Ombudsman's own Field Investigation Office that recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against all the respondents.

The FIO, represented by Ma. Elena Olivia Roxas, said there was a conspiracy to award the contract to Mega Pacific as shown by Abalos' personal ties to some of the consortium's executives.

"But again, we didn't find any evidence supporting that claim," Lopez said.

The panel also didn't see bad faith in Abalos' telling the Senate blue ribbon committee that he didn't know any of the Mega Pacific executives. The FIO found out that he had stood as one of the sponsors in the wedding of one of the children of the Tansipek couple, two of the executives of Mega Pacific.

"We based our decision on the statements submitted by the private complainants. That's extraneous to our investigation," Lopez said, referring to the Senate proceedings.

The panel said none of the resource persons who testified in the clarification hearings had the opportunity to appear before the blue ribbon committee.

"Wouldn't (the Senate committee's) findings be sufficient for a determination of probable cause? The Ombudsman is an independent constitutional body. The Ombudsman was able to arrive at its resolution through the benefit of a more comprehensive presentation and appreciation of evidence," the paper said.

'Abalos lied'

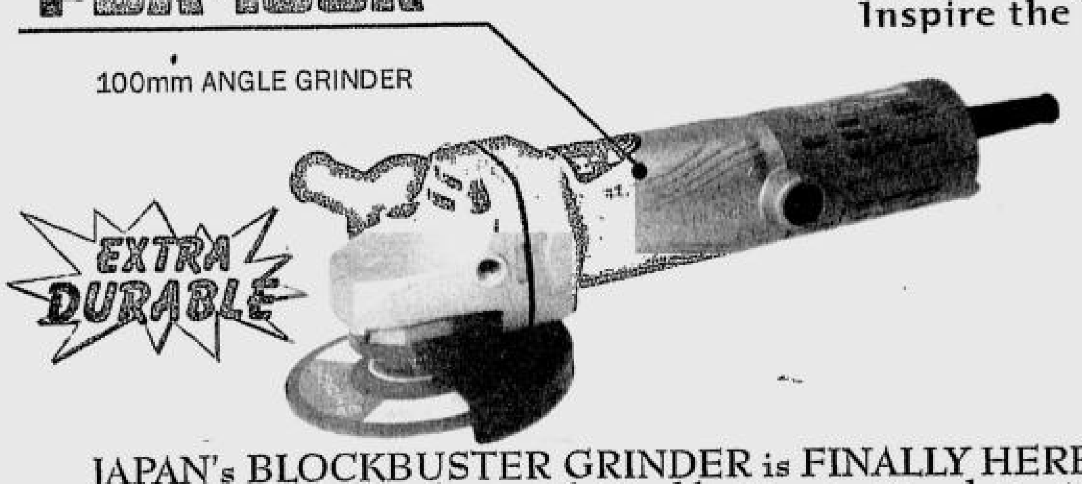
In a statement, Salonga said that Abalos had lied before the Senate committee hearings because of the FIO finding that he was close enough to the Tansipeks to stand as a sponsor in the wedding of one of the couple's children.

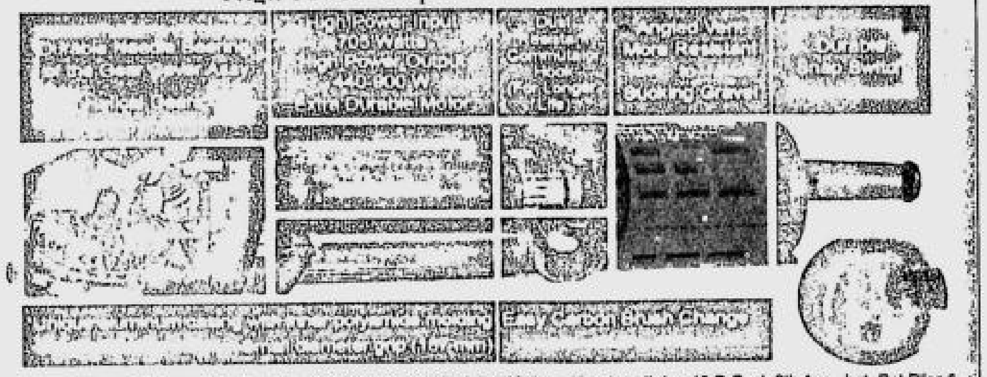
"Roxas' supplemental complaint was limited to fact-finding. On the other hand, the Casimiro panel was tasked with determining whether there was probable cause to hold the Comelec officials criminally and administratively liable … which entails a more comprehensive presentation and appreciation of evidence," said the panel in its written explanation of its decision to clear the Comelec officials.

"The Sept. 27 resolution is a product of a thorough evaluation of all documents, evidence and statements of witnesses. We have considered all these, including the FIO report and complaint of Attorney Roxas," it said.

The panel also explained why it reversed its June decision that showed the culpability of Commissioner Resureccion Borra and members of the bids and awards committee.

Lopez said it was established during the 12-day clarification hearings that the counting machines were not defective. "The automated counting machines were shown to have 100-percent accuracy," he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*





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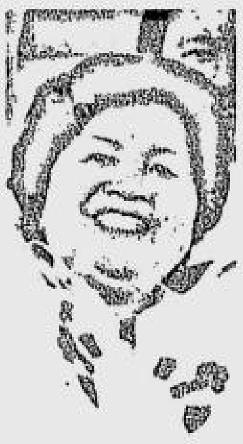
SC upholds Laguna gov's win

By Armand N. Nocum



LAZARO

THE SUPREME Court has ruled that Teresita Lazaro is the duly elected governor of Laguna.

In its 10-page decision, the high tribunal turned down an appeal filed by actor-turned-politician Danilo "Dan" Fernandez, who questioned the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) resolution proclaiming Lazaro winner of the last election.

The resolution, penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Yñares Santiago, said the petition of Fernandez "lacks merit."

The Supreme Court en banc dismissed the suit filed by Fernandez and affirmed the March 9, 2006 resolution of the Comelec en banc in favor of Lazaro.

Fernandez had sought to suspend the canvassing of the certificates of canvass by the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) during the 2004 elections claiming widespread tampering of election results in two Laguna towns, Biñan and San Pablo City.

Fernandez claimed that the alleged election tampering had increased Lazaro's votes. The Laguna PBOC, however, denied Fernandez's motion and subsequently proclaimed Lazaro as the winner, prompting Fernandez to bring the case to the Comelec's first division.

Lazaro, in the proceedings before the Comelec, pointed out that Fernandez's claim was tenuous since he did not file written and formal objections with the appropriate board of canvassers and failed to produce evidence of fraud.

The Comelec's first division initially suspended Lazaro's proclamation and directed the Election Records and Statistics Department (ERSD) to investigate the matter. The suspension was lifted, but a month later, the Comelec again directed the ERSD to examine the election returns.

On April 12, 2005, the Comelec's first division dismissed Fernandez's petition, prompting the parties to take the case to the Supreme Court.

The SC ruled for Lazaro, saying that Fernandez's petition lacked merit and that there had been no grave abuse of discretion on the part of Comelec.

"Grave abuse of discretion arises when a lower court or tribunal violates the Constitution, the law or existing jurisprudence... it is imperative for petitioner (Fernandez) to show caprice and arbitrariness on the part of the court or agency whose exercise of discretion is being assailed," the high court said.

Fernandez, the action star of films such as "Bagansya," made the news recently when he sought for the annulment of his 10-year marriage to actress Shiela Ysrael.

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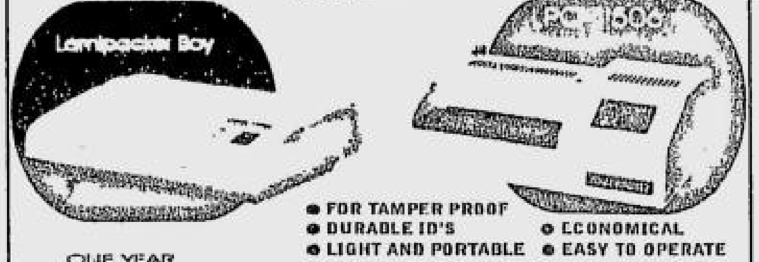

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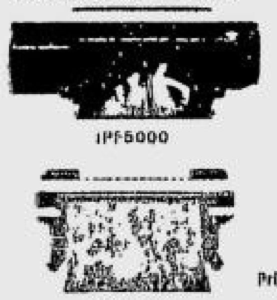

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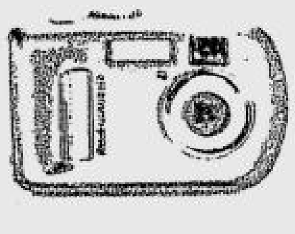

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PNP: Street crime down under new chief

By Alcuin Papa

STREET CRIMES ALL OVER THE country were down by nearly half in the first 100 days in office of Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, according to a police official.

At a press conference yesterday, Director Wilfredo Garcia, PNP Directorate for Operations chief, said the number of reported street crimes—which include robbery, snatching and theft—dropped from 4,175 in the third quarter of 2005 to 2,404 incidents in the same period this year, representing a 42-percent decrease.

Garcia said robberies were down 19 percent, or from 1,072 incidents in 2005 to 866 this year.

Thefts declined by 52 percent from 739 in 2005 to 358 in 2006.

Physical injury cases went down by 47 percent from 393 incidents in 2005 to 207 in 2006.

As a whole, the overall reported crime volume was down 8.3 percent from 19,496 incidents in the third quarter of 2005 to 17,861 incidents for the same period this year.

Kidnapping showed a significant drop of 50 percent. In the third quarter of 2005, there were 16 reported incidents; this year, there were only eight.

Drug cases also dropped by 52 percent for the same period with 2,953 cases in 2005 down to 1,424 cases in 2006. Calderon attributed this to the increased activity of the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Task Force.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 11, 2006
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14
Gospel:	Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name,
may your kingdom come,
give us each day the kind of bread we need,
and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong,
and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

Paul preaches to pagans (those not Jews), and Paul and Barnabas together with the other leaders of the Church go to preach the good news and care for the poor. They agree in the Spirit but when they start doing what was decided upon, James, the other Jews, and even Barnabas, renege and go back to their old traditions. They do not respect the Word of Jesus.

Jesus teaches his disciples a new way of praying to Our Father (no distinctions among the human race), the seeking of God's will and justice with peace for all, food and justice for all daily, forgiveness and strength as we are tested. This is the gospel of the Lord! Have we drifted away from Jesus' priorities to practice what others say we should be doing—even if these practices have nothing to do with making us children of Our Father?

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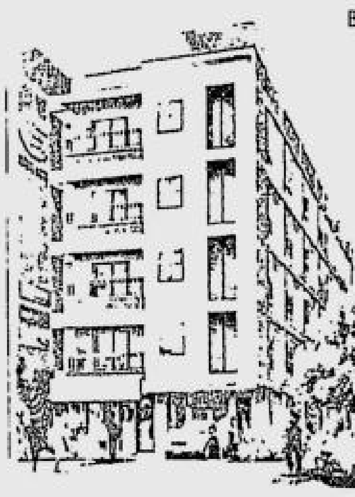

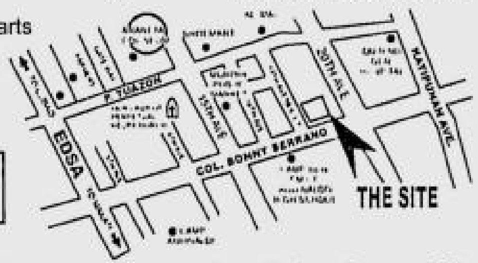
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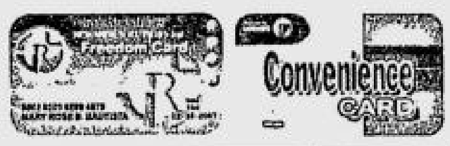

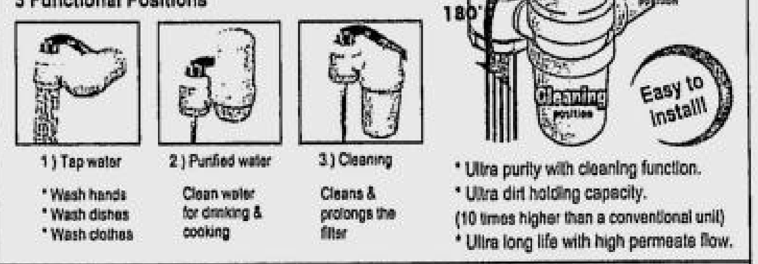
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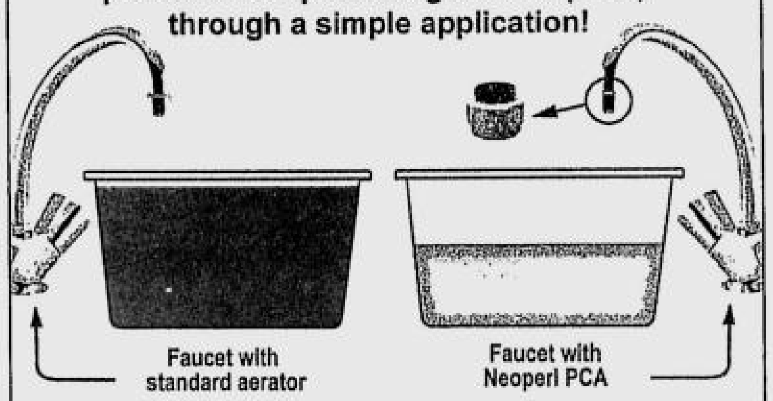
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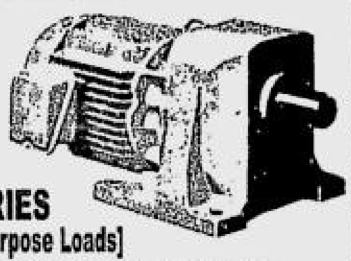

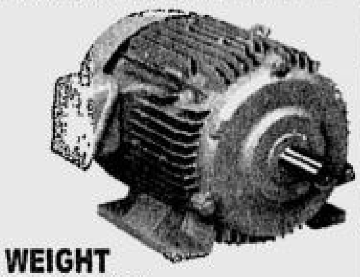
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MILF wants to visit wife of terror suspect

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC Liberation Front (MILF), one of the biggest rebel groups in Mindanao, has denied that it has any links with the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah,one of the most-wanted terrorist groups in the world.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said yesterday they would officially ask the government, through their representatives in the peace panel, to allow them to visit the detained wife of Indonesian JI leader and Bali bombing suspect Dulmatin, to clarify her alleged claim that the MILF is associated with the Al-Qaida-linked network.

Kabalu said allegation that the Maguindanao-based MILF is a coddler of JI operatives, or is being trained by the Indonesian group, has been repeatedly denied by their group. "The accusation is so derogatory and baseless," he told the INQUIRER.

"We want a dialogue with the jailed wife of Dulmatin to hear from her why some groups always connect the MILF with the JIs," he said, adding that she might have been forced by her military interrogators to link the MILF with JI.

"It will not be a sympathy visit, but an official one to clear the name of the MILF, which has been dragged into the reported activities of the Jemaah Islamiya," Kabalu said.

Dulmatin's wife Istiada Oemar Sovie alias Amenah Tohe and her two sons were arrested by government agents in Patikul, Sulu last week. Military officials claimed she had confirmed that her husband and Omar Patek, another suspected JI operative, had slipped into southernmost Sulu archipelago and are now fighting with the extremist Abu Sayyaf and other rebel groups in Mindanao. She is also reported to have said that the Philippines is a "prime target" for bomb attacks for supporting the US war on terror following the Sept. 11 attacks in the US.

Washington is offering a $10 million (about P500 million) reward for the capture of Dulmatin. US troops have been deployed in southern Philippines since 2002 to arm and train Filipino soldiers battling the militants. A major offensive to capture the two Indonesians and their Abu Sayyaf hosts is underway.

The MILF, a breakaway faction of the Libyan-backed Moro National Liberation Front, is presently engaged in peace talks with the government and has distanced itself from the smaller but more militant Abu Sayyaf group led by Afghanistan-trained Khadaffy Janjalani.

Published intelligence reports, however, had reported JI infiltration in the MILF-influenced Buluan area in Maguindanao several years ago. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Australians warned of terror attacks in RP

SYDNEY—Australia warned its citizens Tuesday to avoid parts of the Philippines, saying credible reports indicated attacks on places frequented by foreigners remained imminent.

The foreign affairs department, reissuing a travel warning first given in June, said the threat applied particularly to mainland Mindanao in the south, the Zamboanga Peninsula and the Sulu Archipelago.

"Recent credible reporting indicates terrorists may be in the advanced stages of planning to attack places frequented by foreigners," it said.

"These reports indicate that attacks are imminent and could occur at any time," the department said on its website, repeating the terms of previous travel advisories for the region.

"Possible targets include restaurants, shopping malls including mega malls, hotels, hostels, guesthouses, bars or clubs in major population centers."

Australians are strongly advised not to travel to these areas and those already there should consider leaving, the advisory said.

For the Philippines overall, the government advises a "high degree of caution because of the high threat of terrorist attack," saying some reports suggest the capital Manila could also be a target.

"Places frequented by foreigners, such as bars, pubs, shopping malls, fast-food outlets and places of worship may be targeted for attack."

Fighting in the southern Philippines has intensified following the arrest of the wife of a senior Jemaah Islamiyah militant, the military said Monday.

The warning came after reports in Australia that Philippine extremist group Abu Sayyaf was sheltering members of the Jemaah Islamiyah militant group on the island of Jolo, near Mindanao.

A total of 92 Australians were killed in terror attacks in neighboring Indonesia's resort island of Bali in 2002 and 2005 blamed on JI. *AFP*

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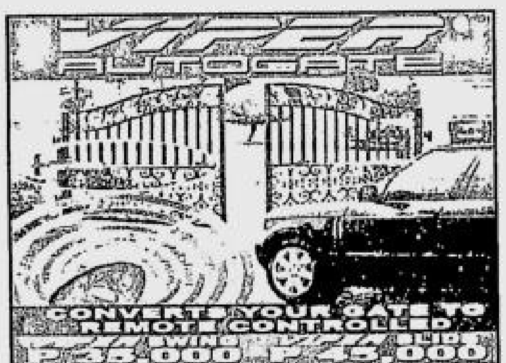

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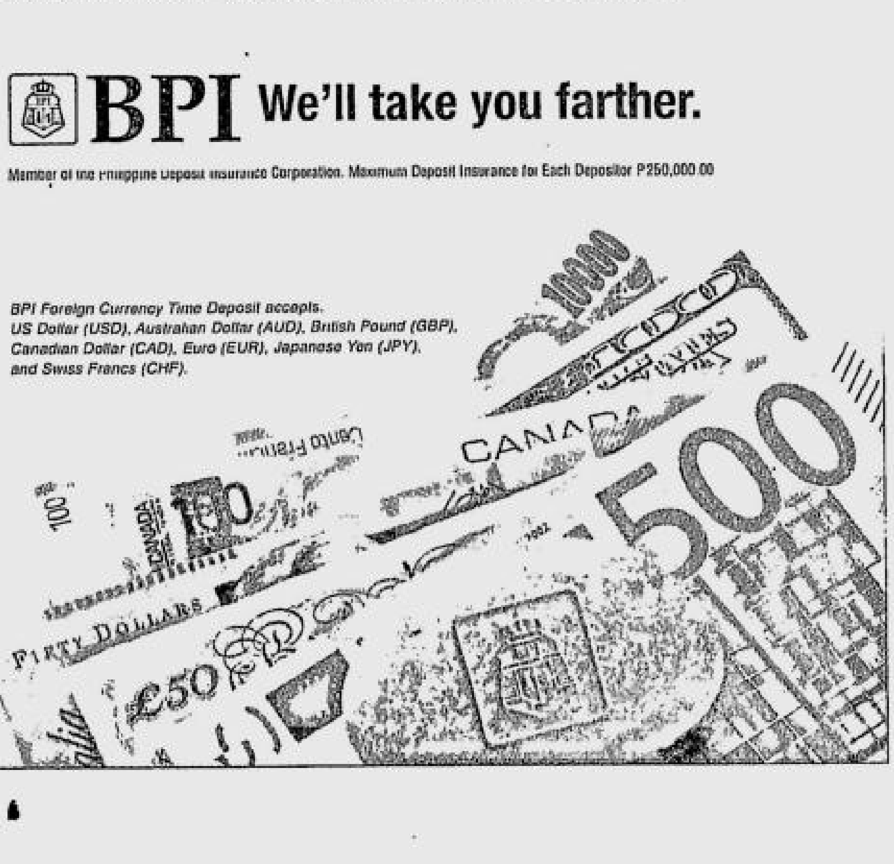

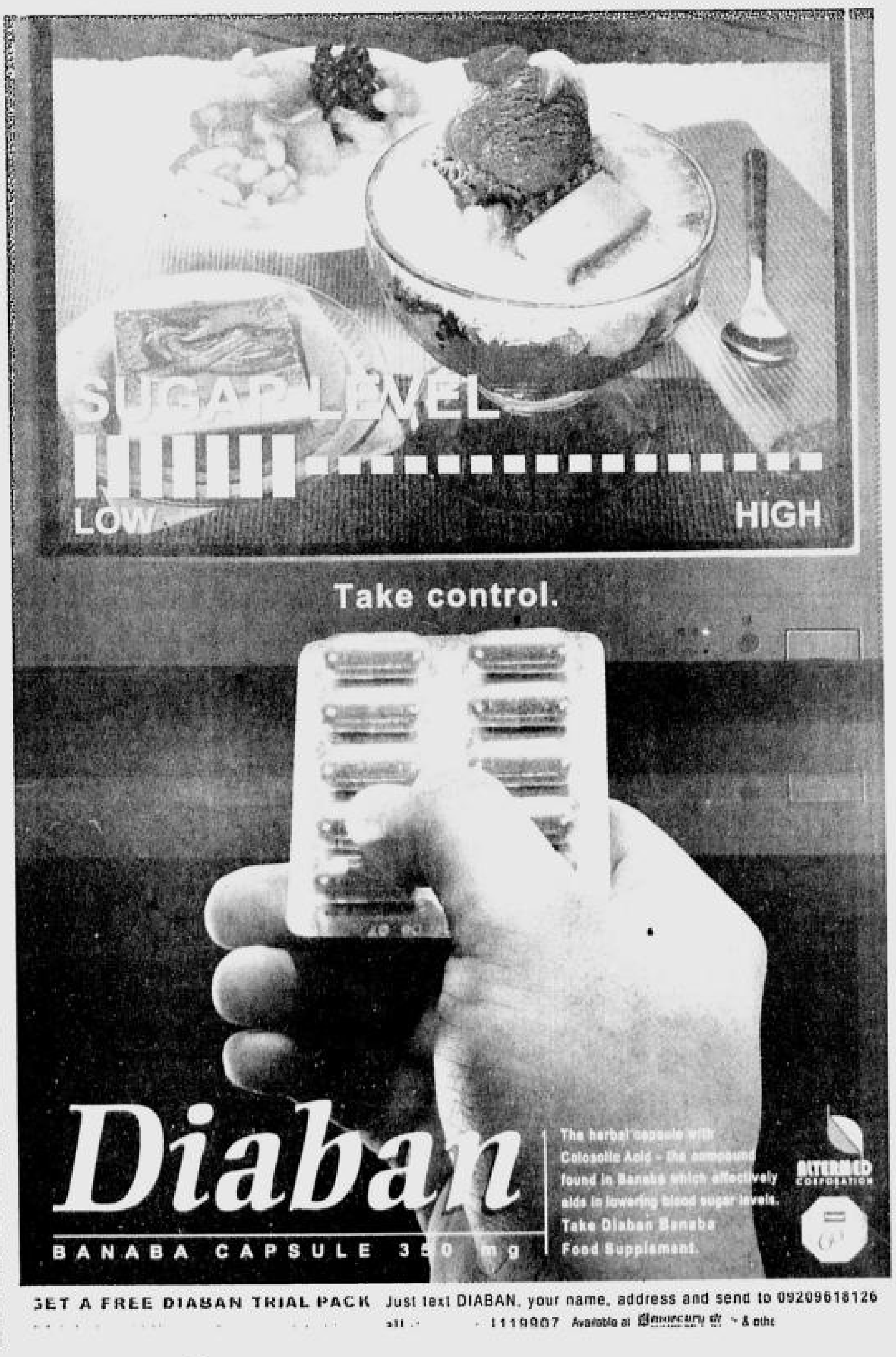

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Defiant PRC chair says GMA's order …

From page A1

manding that the PRC conduct a retake, while Ang was "saying not so good things about the PRC."

During his confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments in an adjacent room, Brion said he had asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the claim made to the INQUIRER by a nursing professor that the purported cheating also infected Tests I and II, apart from Tests III and V, of the five-part board exam.

He said he had shelved his initial recommendation to Ms Arroyo to order a retake and was now "taking a fresh look" at the scandal.

Malacañang's flip-flop on the retake hounded Brion at his confirmation hearing, where lawmakers grilled him about the nursing mess instead of his qualifications for the labor portfolio.

Responding to a question posed by Drilon, Brion said he had learned about the supposed leak in Tests I and II only from the INQUIRER.

"I would like to ask the NBI about this. I have instructions to my staff to contact the person who made that allegation so we can ask him about this matter," he said.

Rene Luis Tadle, president of the faculty association of the University of Sto. Tomas College of Nursing, told the INQUIRER last weekend that five students from Baguio City had submitted affidavits to the NBI saying they had received leaked questions for Tests I and II.

Brion confirmed he was now in charge of the cheating issue, with the President issuing Executive Order No. 565 placing the PRC under the labor department.

He said he had submitted a draft EO for a retake of Tests III and V but that Ms Arroyo told him to wait for the NBI to complete its probe. He said Ms Arroyo had also told him to "consider" the results of his dialogues with the stakeholders in the nursing profession.

"So as matters stand now, I have been given by the President the authority to act on the matter of whether there will be a retake or [not]. I have not acted on the matter. I am taking a fresh look [at the issue]," Brion said.

Asked by Sen. Richard Gordon when he would make his decision, Brion said: "As soon as possible."

'Liar'

At the Senate hearing, Rosero said what Ang had been saying—that the board exam was tainted and that the new nurses were not being accepted abroad—was not true.

She said 21 states in the United States were accepting nurses without the PRC license and 20 states did not require the CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) certificate.

Many hospitals here were also taking in the new nurses, she said.

Drilon said Rosero was in effect calling Ang a liar.

Ang was attending a Cabinet meeting at Malacañang at the time.

CFO Executive Director Jose Molano, who was seated beside Rosero, said he was not in a position to respond to the attack.

But Ang later told the INQUIRER: "I forgive Rosero. I think she cannot comprehend the damage the PRC has done to the professional board system and the innocent board takers who bore the brunt of PRC's incompetence when it recomputed the grades and gave a 2-percent bonus to the examinees, thus effectively populating our health care [system] with nurses whose competence is questionable at best."

He added: "The court will deal with the legal issue, but whether the court can remove the stain [on the profession] remains to be seen. I hope it does."

Oath-taking to go on

Taking it a step further, she said that regardless of the Cabinet decision, the PRC would administer the oath to the 17,821 nursing graduates who passed the June 11-12 exam and register them when the temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals expires on Oct. 18.

Rosero said that among the passers, 6,000 had taken their oath and a third of that number registered as nurses before the TRO was handed down.

"I pity these 17,000 board passers who don't know what will happen to them. So we just wait and cross our fingers that this problem will resolve itself?" Drilon asked.

Rosero said she would have to follow the Cabinet decision whatever it would be. But she added: "I think the court [and not the executive branch] will be the one [to] decide this."

She also said she was confident that the court would uphold the PRC decision to administer the oath to the exam passers.

Drilon expressed dismay at how Malacañang and the PRC were handling the problem.

He told Rosero: "The public is so confused as to what you are doing and what the President is doing. Now the latest we heard is the President is leaving [the matter] to [Brion]. This does not speak well of your commission. In other words, you have practically lost control of the solution to this problem. Isn't this a mess? It would appear to me you are incapable of handling the situation."

General supervision

At Brion's confirmation hearing later, Drilon asked the labor secretary to respond to Rosero's attack.

Brion denied he was interfering with the PRC. He said that by virtue of EO 565, Ms Arroyo had given him "general supervision" over the commission.

Gordon asked Brion if it was time he recommended Rosero's replacement.

"We should have fresh leadership in the PRC because the whole country is now being made to suffer the ignominy of having to perpetrate a leakage," Gordon said.

Replied Brion: "The matter of the PRC's possible liability for inaction, negligence or omission is a matter that I believe we can legitimately look into, but right now our focus is on the exam leakage itself.

"I will certainly look into that and make the proper recommendation to the President."

'Miserable failure'

Citing their "miserable failure as regulators," the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines called on Rosero and two other PRC members to resign.

TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera said the controversy was a result of "the patently inadequate ethical standards of the PRC members and their outrageous mishandling of the mess."

Herrera also welcomed the DOLE's assumption of direct supervision over the PRC, saying this would make the latter "highly responsive to the requirements of the professional labor markets here and abroad."

The TUCP has been an aggressive backer of Filipino nurses, pushing their deployment to lucrative job markets overseas and insisting that professionals should enjoy the right to take their skills where they would get the biggest reward. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Now, GMA zeroes in on nursing diploma mills

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO INTENDS TO discourage parents from sending their children to substandard nursing schools.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo had ordered the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) to publicize fully a general assessment of all nursing schools, including their performance in the licensure examinations in the last three years, in order to separate the serious institutions from the diploma mills.

According to Bunye, a presentation by CHEd Chair Carlito Puno at yesterday's Cabinet meeting showed that "some schools have almost zero passing average."

Not out to shame

"This is very worrisome because if you have these types of institutions, you can see the quality of education [dropping]. This will serve as a guide to prospective enrollees as to where they should enroll," he said at a press briefing.

Bunye said the government was not out to shame the below-par nursing schools. "It's factual; this is already a matter of public record. It's just a matter of educating the public and directing [prospective enrollees to] schools that have better performance," he said.

As of June, there were 460 nursing programs nationwide, with 386,531 students enrolled.

In his report to the Cabinet, Puno cited four major issues facing nursing education in the country—the shortage and poor quality of most facilities for on-the-job training, the need for quality instruction, the need for better screening of students, and the lack of qualified faculty, clinical instructors and deans in nursing schools.

NBI report on Oct. 15

Bunye said Ms Arroyo and the Cabinet did not discuss the proposed retake of the June nursing board exam at the meeting because they had decided to wait for the report of the National Bureau of Investigation on the purported cheating.

The NBI report is due on Oct. 15.

"There will be an announcement within the week about this, and we believe this issue will be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties concerned," Bunye said.

IN TRAINING. Florencio Ferrer (left) spars with team mate Mark Jason Melligen at the Abap gym at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum for the Asian Olympic boxing qualifying in January 2004. RUDY ESPE

Boxing is RP's best b

From page A1

One man thinks it isn't an empty dream.

Manny T. Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap), says capturing the elusive gold is attainable come the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"Capturing the Olympic gold is not a far-fetched dream. I'm upbeat that we'll get it in Beijing provided that the necessary requirements, like a comprehensive training program, technical preparations and fundings, are present," says Lopez, his voice vibrant and full of life.

Loves challenge

Also the secretary general of the Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing and a senior member of the powerful International Amateur Boxing Association technical commission, Lopez loves the enormous challenge of producing the first Olympic gold medalist.

"Winning the Olympic gold is like climbing stairs," he says. "We've climbed two out of 10 stairs en route to Beijing. Winning the overall title in the Southeast Asian Games is a good start. The next stair is the Doha Asian Games."

Lopez replaced his father, former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, as Abap president in 1994 and is now on his third term.

The young Lopez says Abap continues to lean on the successful Quest for Olympic Gold program spearheaded by his father, which resulted in light-flyweights Leopoldo Serantes and Roel Velasco winning bronze medals in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Adapting to the times

"Of course, we also fine-tune it (the program) to adapt to the modern times," Lopez says, noting that one thing going for the organization is its unity.

Lopez believes that the search for Olympic gold is not solely Abap's task.

"It's a national endeavor. The private and public sectors must chip in. We go for the holistic approach," he says.

The historical significance of Villanueva's achievement in the 1932 Games isn't lost on Lopez. Abap was founded in 1961 und late Eugenio Puyat, who led it for 18 y

"It took 32 long and tiring years f country to again climb the medal bo Anthony, Cely's son, came one win of pocketing the gold in the 1964 Olympics against Russian Sta Stepashkin," Lopez says.

"I'm not going to back down fro challenge of producing the country Olympic gold medalist, but I don' that long a wait," he says.

Threshold of history

It was Roel Velasco's younger br Mansueto, a pocket-sized peppery fi with winged feet, who enthralled tion hungry for heroes when he b into the light-flyweight final agains garian veteran Daniel Petrov Bojil the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

"That was a very special bout. C came on the threshold of history whole of the country stood still" remembers. "But the best of plans times don't get the desired results."

Velasco lost to the foxy Bojilo four years earlier, had won the medal in Barcelona. Judges saw the garian the clear winner, 19-6, but wise Pinoys saw it otherwise

Onyokmania enveloped the archip

Lopez says Onyok's silver-meda led to high hopes that the country's s for Olympic gold was about to end.

"Onyok's silver medal showing ac united, albeit temporarily, our co much like what Manny Pacquiao has doing lately. Just imagine if one o boxers wins a gold medal," Lopez sa

More disappointments

But again, the country was disappoi

Lopez and Abap came under fire f ing their sad experiences in the 2000 S and the 2004 Athens Olympics, whe country laid big, fat eggs in the medal

"Lady luck simply didn't smile on Sydney considering that three of ou ers were one win away from the rounds," Lopez says.

Nurses in limbo, take call center jobs

From page A1

gathered at the conference hall of the UP College of Nursing to appeal for a retake of the tainted board exam.

According to Espinoza, almost half of her class sought jobs at call centers after hospitals refused to act on their applications pending the decision of the Court of Appeals on the cheating controversy.

Espinoza, who had also worked at a call center after graduation, said she would go back to her job if hospitals continued to turn away nursing applicants belonging to Batch 2006.

"I tried applying at the Philippine General Hospital, where my classmates and I served as trainees in college, but PGH did not give me a schedule for an interview," she said, adding that she had been experiencing depression because of her situation.

On probation

But not all the board passers had difficulty finding a job.

Joy Delfin, 21, a graduate of Angeles University Foundation (AUF) College of Nursing in Pampanga, said many of the board passers were "manning" hospitals in Angeles City.

"I was accepted at AUF as a nurse shortly after the release of the board exam results," said Delfin, No. 12 of the Top 20 passers.

But she was accepted on a probationary basis because she had yet to be issued a nursing license.

"We are afraid that we will be removed from our jobs if the government orders a retake of the board exam," she said.

Delfin spoke with the INQUIRER during a rally yesterday at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, where around 500 nursing graduates from various parts of Luzon and their parents assembled to make public their "no retake" stance.

According to Delfin, a retake would mean additional expenses for her and other members of her batch.

She said her family had spent P25,000 for her enrollment at two different review centers prior to the June exam.

"The solution to the stigma that the proretake group has been amplifying is to prosecute the guilty and not to punish us," Delfin said.

Research assistants

Another UP graduate, John Stuart Pancho, said he and four of his classmates had been working as research assistants because of the lack of job opportunities.

"We are consoled only by the fact that our research work involves health issues," Pancho said.

Toni Rose Gepiala, also a graduate of the UP College of Nursing, was fortunate to be accepted as a nurse trainee at a diagnostic clinic.

But Gepiala said her work mostly involved clerical tasks because she was "prohibited" from performing the duties of a registered nurse, such as administering injections, for lack of a license.

Patricia Batac of UERM said only a retake of the exam would banish the "cloud of suspicion" that had been hanging over those who took the June exam.

"We have to move on with our lives and plan our future," said the still jobless Batac.

'Suspended reality'

She added: "We cannot do this with everyone doubting us because of the supposed leakage of test questions."

Rolando Samson, father of AUF nursing graduate and board passer Zhrissa Charisma Samson, traveled from the family home in Mabalacat, Pampanga, to Liwasang Bonifacio to back the call against a retake.

Samson said he and his wife had shelled out P40,000 for their eldest child's review expenses.

"We are depending on our children to help us secure our future," he said in Filipino. "Now it seems we are in suspended reality."

Samson, 50, said he worked long hours selling cars, houses and lots seven days a week to help his daughter achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

He said that despite the expensive course and with three other children enrolled in college, he always made sure Zhrissa paid her tuition on time.

Sending her to nursing school was difficult, especially because the family lost everything to Mt. Pinatubo's lahar avalanches, which claimed their village of San Joaquin in Mabalacat in 1992.

"*Talagang maragul ing kasakitan* (Our sacrifices were really big)," Samson told the INQUIRER in Angeles City.

As many as 305 other AUF nursing graduates passed the board exam. Two members of the batch made it to the ninth slot in the Top 10, and 43 others were among the Top 20.

'Not the solution'

"A retake is not the solution to the so-called integrity of the exam or of the nursing profession. The solution is to punish those who are behind the leakage. Why make our children the sacrificial lambs?" Samson said.

"Assuming there really was a leakage, the competency of nursing graduates cannot be solely measured by a one-time licensure exam. They hurdled four years of rigorous training. They would not pass the course if they were not competent," he said.

Samson said the AUF's standing in the academic community—the ninth among 360 nursing schools nationwide in 2005—spoke enough of its credibility.

Joy Delfin said she and her colleagues did not benefit from the leak: "We took the exam fairly and squarely."

She said that while her parents, public school teachers Juanito and Angelita Delfin, could not join her at the rally because they were at work, they were also against a retake.

Delfin completed her nursing course on scholarship at AUF. Six days a week, she negotiated the dusty lahar fields of Barangay Manibaug, Porac, to get to school.

"We really gave our best, and [the government] should not take away our success in that exam," she said. "We did not cheat."

She also said a retake would "heighten the stigma, not reduce it."

Joint statement

In a joint statement, the AUF graduates and their parents called on the government to prosecute and punish those who would be found guilty of taking part and benefiting from the cheating.

They also appealed to the Board of Nursing, the Professional Regulation Commission and the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing to uphold their first decision that a retake was not mandatory. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

No money, no honey i

From page A1

"It was so successful because it was directly under the President. Sports was really a national concern then."

Master Hong, as the country's top taekwondo jins call him, is not complaining, though.

Using money wisely

Instead, the PTA accepts whatever the PSC can spare from its thinning national budget allocation and uses it wisely—careful also to liquidate the funds to the last centavo and teaching its regional associations to do the same.

"That's taxpayer's money," Hong says. "We hold ourselves responsible for it and we want every regional association that gets help from the government to liquidate what is given to them. That's why we hold annual seminars to teach everybody in our association how to liquidate funds."

The PTA has also tackled the budget problem proactively. It has learned to source funds from the private sector for its grassroots projects and has taught its regional associations the same thing.

Petron, Milo and Samsung have been the association's loyal partners, contributing more than their fair share of funds to assure the continuity of the training of the jins.

See what a peso buys

"Whatever they give us, we don't complain," Hong says. "If you give us a peso, we smile, say thank you and keep quiet. Then we try to see what we can do with that peso."

The strategy has worked because, according to Hong, the companies do not feel pressured to dole out pricey sponsorship packages. They sit down and watch how one financial aid is used and, when satisfied, actually spearhead the increase in donation.

"And since we have no problems with corporate support, we can focus on the athletes," Hong says.

Taekwondo has grown into one of the more popular sports in the country s in the Milo summer sports progran jins outnumber the participants of t ergy drink's basketball clinics.

The PTA is benefiting from this p pation boom.

"Our grassroots program is very w place," Hong says.

Under the PTA's wing is a 300-s pool from which it will select na players.

There are 100 jins in the 10 to 1 bracket, 100 in the 14 to 17 bracke another 100 in the 18-above bracket. 18-above bracket is the main suppli national players for the PTA.

From this pool, the PTA will r players to send to different internat tournaments. This year, several jins join events like the Korea Open World Cup in Bangkok and the Games in Doha, Qatar.

Next year, the PTA plans to invit tional players from Korea to train wi RP squad here.

Technology transfer

"We're looking for transfer in tech gy," Hong says. "But this time, inst taking the players abroad, we're bri Korea's national players here."

The qualifiers for the Olympics place next year. There will be two ways to the Olympics. One will be in don in September and one in Vietn late November.

Then, among those who will q Hong will select the four that will the Olympics in Beijing.

Training in Korea

He will have two other major to ments and an evaluation tourname determine the four players—two e the men and women classes. There world championship in Beijing an Southeast Asian Games.

"After that, we will have our e tion. And I will personally overse evaluation," Hong says.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CUBAN COACH Honorato Espinoza, widely known for producing Cuba's 23 Olympic gold and 48 world championships, will be training the Filipino boxers by yearend. RUDY ESPERAS

For 10 RP boxers, journey to China begins in Cuba

From page A1

The trip to Cuba is the centerpiece of the governors' "Guvs for Gold"—a campaign to tap boxers at the grass roots and train them so that one day the Philippines will rule Olympic boxing contests.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol says that while Filipino boxers like Manny Pacquiao have reaped honors in the professional ranks, their performance in the amateur category has been marked by frustration.

Grassroots program

"When you have a viable grass-roots program, when you prepare more, when you practice more, you have a chance of succeeding in any endeavor," says Piñol, the project director.

The program started with the hiring and training of coaches and the holding of tournaments in the countryside to identify boxing talents.

A panel of boxing experts, including sports editors, was tapped to select the members of the national pool of boxers, who were picked not just because they won but because of their courage, skills and physical build.

Boxing for education

All boxers in the training pool will participate in the Olympic pre-qualifying tournaments to fight for slots in the Olympic Games. The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines was tapped to assist the governors.

Funding came from the P100,000 contribution of each of the 79 provinces supporting the program. Malacañang also earmarked a counterpart fund of P500,000.

Each boxer will receive a monthly stipend and is ensured of continuing their high school or college education while training.

At the same time, the program will raise funds to guarantee an Olympic gold medal winner P5 million, silver medalist P3 million and bronze finisher P1.5 million.

Cuban coach

The circuit hired a Cuban coach, Honorato Espinoza, 66, widely known for producing Cuba's 23 Olympic gold and 48 world championships, to train the Filipinos.

Espinoza's most notable winners were Cuba's first Olympic gold medalist in the sport, Orlando Martinez (1972), Adolfo Horta (three-time champion in 1978, 1982 and 1986) and Angel Herrera who, aside from winning the 1996 Olympic gold, also reigned supreme in the World Championships, World Cup, Pan American Games and Goodwill Games.

Espinoza's students have included Raul Fernandez Liranza, who used to call the shots in the corner of Mansueto Velasco, silver medalist in the 1996 Games.

Espinoza arrived in the country in May 2005 after Piñol visited Cuba to ask the help of sports authorities in training boxing winners.

Piñol says the Philippines has won only five boxing medals since it joined the quadrennial event in 1932.

Those Olympic medal winners were Cely Villanueva (bronze), 1932 Olympics; Anthony Villanueva (silver) 1964; Leopoldo Serrantes (bronze) 1988; Roel Velasco (bronze) 1992, and Mansueto Velasco (silver) 1999.

"That is hardly something that we would be proud of in our 72 years of participation in the Olympics," says Piñol.

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Athens was even worse and Lopez didn't offer any alibis.

"We were well-prepared for Athens. But we committed so many lapses," he says.

The struggles of the boxers forced Lopez and his coaching staff to rethink their strategies. He laughs off claims that Abap hasn't discovered new talents.

"At present, there are 36 members of the national training pool in Baguio City. They are tall, lean, quick and have long arms, which are all attributes of international world beaters," Lopez says.

"In two years time, the young but highly experienced boxers will carry our colors proudly," he adds, rattling off the names of Joan Tipon, Genebert Basadre, Orlando Tacuyan Jr. and Delfin Boholst, among others.

Cuban example

To achieve the dream in Beijing, Lopez says that Abap continues to pattern its system after the Cuban example.

"Cuban boxing is the best in the world," Lopez says.

Abap tried but failed to lure Cuban coach Raul Fernandez Liranza back to its fold early this year. Liranza was sacked following the Sydney debacle.

Although willing to return and help chart the destiny of Philippine boxing, Liranza wasn't allowed by the Cuban Boxing Federation to come back.

"Raul is now in the top echelon of Cuban boxing," Lopez says. "I'm sure he has learned from his Sydney experience."

Paris Games

With Liranza not available, Lopez says Abap is determined to bring in another top-notch Cuban coach. "But that will happen early next year because we don't want to disrupt our Asiad preparations under head coach Pat Gaspi," he says.

The Philippines first competed in the Olympics during the 1924 Paris Games. Eighteen Olympics later, it is still without a gold medal.

After all the heartaches and the tumbles, Lopez and Abap are ready to box for gold.

n taekwondo

Members of the national team trained in Korea for several months for the Asian Games.

On the men's side are John Paul Lizardo, Tshomlee Go, Manuel Rivero, Ernesto Juan Mendoza, Alex Briones and Daz Alberto Morfe.

The distaff team is composed of Kathleen Eunice Alora, Loraine Lorelei Catalan, Mary Antoinette Rivero, Ma. Criselda Roxas, Kirstie Elaine Alora and Richele Dinolan.

Hong says none of them have an inside track to one of the four Olympic spots.

Everybody will have a chance at being an Olympian. "The one who deserves it most will get it," Hong says.

Hong has always made it a point to instill in his wards a sense of pride in being a national player. And, in a glaring example of how big a role money plays in the development of athletes, such a lesson costs the PTA also.

"We house them in apartment units. We give them good food, extra training and a lot of minor perks. We want to make them feel like when you are a national team member, you are king. We want them to be proud to represent the country," he says.

"We don't pay them much. Instead, we treat them differently once they've earned that spot in the national squad," he adds.

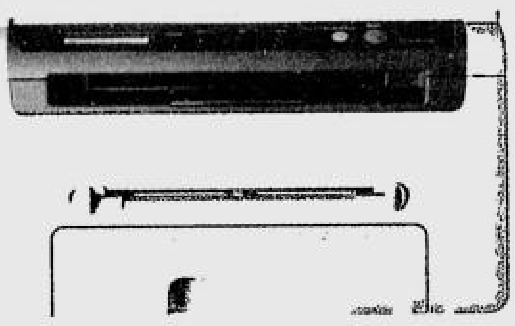
No pressure

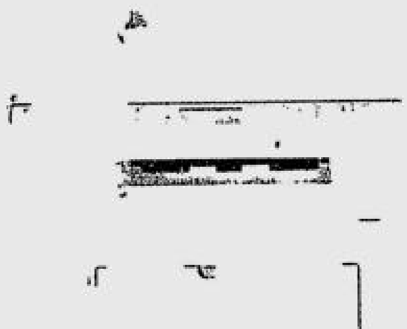
Hong says a lot of the Olympic hopes of the country are pinned on both taekwondo and boxing. But he feels no pressure.

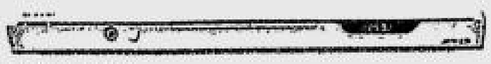
"We all know that in taekwondo and boxing, once they go to the Olympics, there is only one goal—the gold medal. If we win, good. If not, try again. Simple as that. No pressure. But we will go there aiming for the gold medal," Hong says.

"Otherwise, why go there at all?"

The road to the Olympics is littered with challenges. Dedication, hard work and plenty of financing will hopefully help the country get through those obstacles.







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OPINION

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Radioactive

EDITORIAL

THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS AS DIScreet as a tuba in a library: "The nuclear test was conducted with indigenous wisdom and technology 100 percent," its propagandists boasted. And the world trembled.

The timing of the blast accomplished maximum mischief. Not only have Japan's new prime minister and China's premier just inaugurated a thaw in their previously frosty relations; the United States is distracted by political scandal and jockeying over midterm elections to determine if the Bush administration will be a lame duck or not.

Immediately, North Korea expanded its options and limited those of the major powers in the region. Even as the Philippine government joined the rest of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations in condemning the detonation, and the world wonders what will come next, America, China and Japan are forced to confront the prospects of a regional arms race.

Impoverished, xenophobic, fanatical and unpredictable, North Korea has achieved one thing: It has virtually closed off the possibility of a resolution of its rogue nation status by force of arms. The already brittle South Korean-American alliance, which has been limping along for a decade, will undergo new stresses as the South Koreans agonize over whether to step up military preparations in tandem with its Western and regional allies, or further pursue its decade-long efforts to talk to, rather than actively confront, its North Korean neighbor.

The People's Republic of China, nominally an ideological soul mate of North Korea, and which generously subsidizes what passes for the North Korean economy, must find a way to keep diplomacy on the agenda to prevent tensions sapping its economic growth. China has no choice but to aggressively pursue its capitalist policies as its coastal cities have to serve as a magnet to attract impoverished—and increasingly disgruntled—citizens in the interior. To stall or even marginally slow down China's economy is to risk resentment getting out of hand in the vast interior spaces of the country, whose citizens haven't had a taste of wealth.

Ironically, the United States and in particular, the Bush administration, may be the twin beneficiary of Pyongyang's nuclear surprise. Over recent weeks, the Republican party has been anxiously, vainly—and hysterically—trying to fend off the consequences of its pretensions to moral superiority being demolished by a sex scandal. Overnight, the headlines have shifted from domestic American concerns to issues that continue to be the Republican forte: the so-called "Axis of Evil" of which North Korea is a star.

It may be true that American public opinion will zero in on the North Korean nuclear test as another grim case of Bush's chickens coming home to roost (North Korea tried, practically on bended knee, to negotiate with the Bush White House some years back). However, a demoralized Republican base may be reenergized by the nuclear test and rally behind its leadership. American security analysts are already pointing to the possibility that North Korea might sell nuclear weapons, whether portable nukes or the technology to manufacture nuclear bombs, which is indeed a troubling scenario. After all, right now North Korea may have the bomb, but it lacks the means to detonate them anywhere but within its own borders.

A security-conscious region, too, now has to agonize over a possible arms race from North to East Asia, not limited to Japan. The Japanese have to decide whether to strengthen their armed forces and adopt nuclear weapons. Other nuclear-capable nations, such as India and Pakistan, may decide to strengthen their arsenals if China and Japan arm in response to North Korea or to deter unilateral American action.

Some observers also point out that the Philippines must now ponder its alliance with the United States, not because North Korea is capable, as of yet, of firing intercontinental ballistic missiles, but because the spread of nuclear technology for weapons purposes has gotten a little more unpredictable. And also because increased spending on defense by China, Japan and South Korea will have an effect on their respective overseas investments, and that includes the Philippines.

North Korea is hungry, it is desperate and ruthless. The world will have to mix pragmatism with compassion in judicious doses, if the fog of war is to be rolled back.

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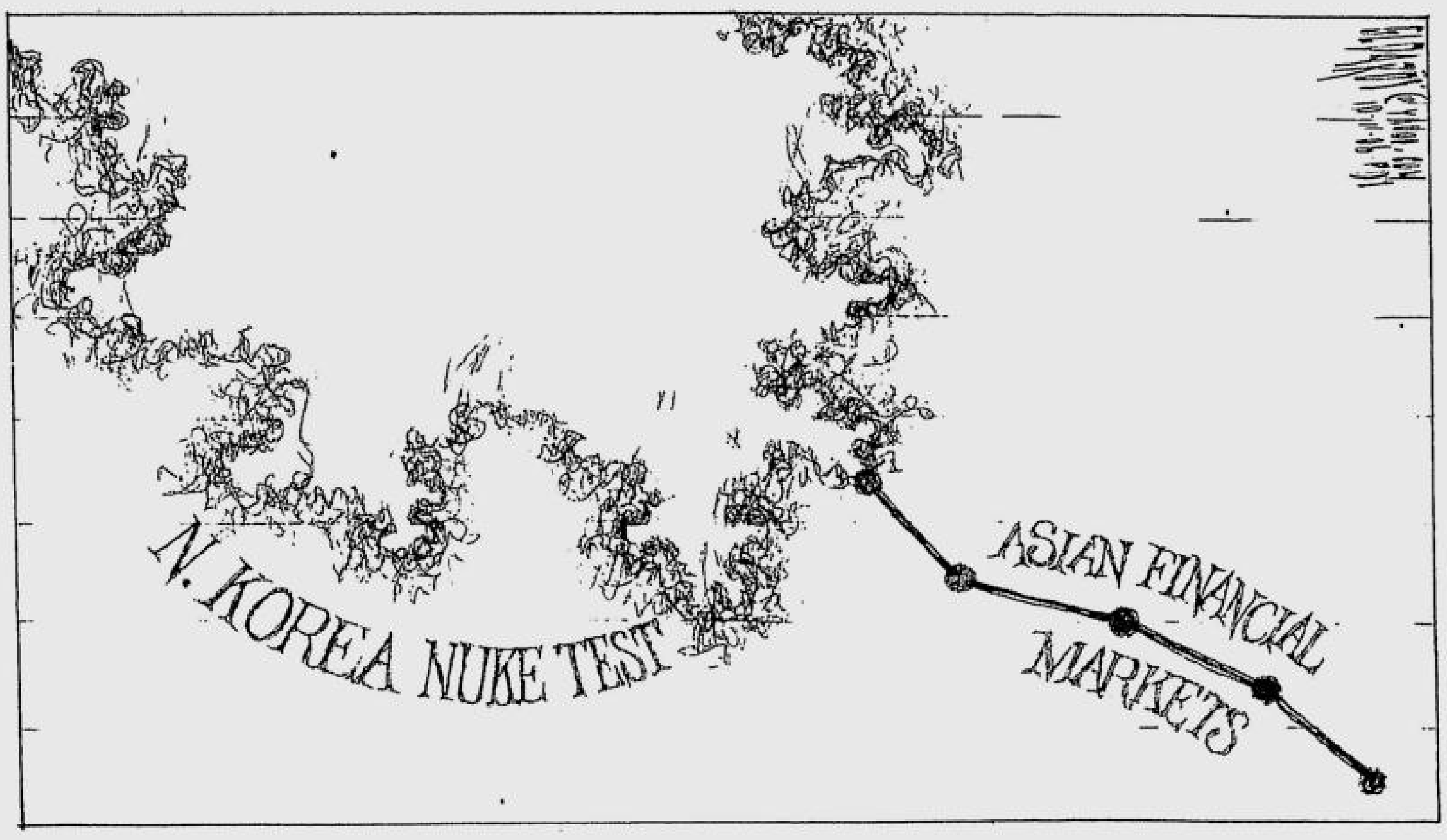

To pay or not to pay, that is the question

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BUSINESS CIRCLES ARE TALKING ABOUT the P17-billion debt that the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) will pay to a Hong Kong-based company. The original loan was only P2.4 billion at current market rates, but after 26 years of not paying anything, it has ballooned to P17 billion. That's what happens when you don't pay your debts promptly.

I became interested about what I was hearing so I began asking questions and doing some research. This is what I have found out so far:

The original loan was incurred by a subsidiary of the PNCC but was guaranteed by the parent company. It was PNCC under Rodolfo Cuenca that constructed the North and South Luzon Expressways and the PNCC was flying high for a time. But its fortunes started to wane when President Ferdinand Marcos was driven out of power.

The original creditor, Marubeni of Japan, has tried to collect on the loan for years, without results. Records show that the Asset Privatization Trust had plans to gradually pay starting 1987. But as with most of the PNCC's loans, these came to naught in spite of Marubeni's offered debt swaps, conversions to equity and other repayment modes. Exasperated, Marubeni sold its collectibles to Radstock of Hong Kong.

Radstock initiated serious attempts to collect in 2000. By then, unpaid interests and penalties had jacked up the debt, so that a PNCC board meeting placed Radstock's receivables at P10 billion.

You'd think acknowledging a debt would lead to payment, but successive PNCC administrations tried to weasel out of their obligations, citing the lapse of the prescription period. That did not wash with the regional trial court where the collection case was being tried. Collection efforts by the creditors had never stopped, as evidenced by PNCC documents dealing with the issue of the worrisome debt.

Radstock won in the RTC and the Court of Appeals, which refused the PNCC's appeal to halt proceedings. The Supreme Court later dismissed the PNCC's attempt to block the CA trial, although it did lift a writ of attachment, saying there was no proof the publicly listed firm intended to abscond with its debt.

The SC decision, issued late last year, finally prompted the PNCC to hammer out the P6-billion compromise deal, representing a net return for Radstock of around 3 percent per annum. That's not too much, considering the grueling, costly and exhausting process.

The compromise will be good to the PNCC, too. It will settle its debt with no cash out, and get approximately 35 cents on the dollar, whereas a continuation of the case would have brought the company to ruin. A check with Asset Privatization Trust officials showed that the PNCC is also settling other debts, including those with government agencies.

Many Filipinos are not yet familiar with the rarefied market that deals with debt papers. There is really nothing mysterious about Radstock's transaction, which is very similar to a lot of cases after the Asian financial crisis. At that time, economies across the continent were on their knees, and company after company declared bankruptcy or defaulted on loans to stay alive. Banks and governments were faced with a mountain of very high-risk, big, bad debts. When their debt portfolios started dragging down core businesses, these entities sold the bad debts to investment companies and special asset vehicles that our government invited to make some sense out of the terrible mess.

With their deep pockets, these investment companies buy the debt papers at a big discount. Then they collect from the debtors by offering easy payment terms, rollovers, discounts, debt swaps, accepted asset payments, etc. The difference between their bargain buying price and the amount they are able to collect is their profit, which, considering the size of the debts, is nothing to sneeze at.

But aside from deep pockets (and sources say Radstock is controlled by an investment fund with around $100 million in shareholders' equity), these high-finance leverage firms are characterized by grit and patience. As the PNCC case shows, one needs time, stomach and energy to collect from those who are reluctant to pay.

For example, with the compromise settlement just being reviewed, here comes Cuenca who, six years into the proceeding, insists the PNCC shouldn't pay. His argument is weird. This late in the game, he claims he never gave any guarantee for his Basay Mining loans from Marubeni. Unlike other huge loans of Basay from government financial institutions, this transaction was guaranteed not by the state but by the private mother corporation.

Asset Privatization Trust sources admit that original papers of guaranty were indeed presented to the RTC, with the PNCC's former corporate secretary acknowledging these were genuine. In fact, there was little in those RTC proceedings that questioned the existence or legitimacy of the claims. What was disputed then was the matter of prescription.

In effect, what Cuenca wants is a retrial, although court decisions never questioned the fact he now wants to dispute. He claims he had no opportunity to correct such a glaring lapse when he has been involved all these years in trying to recover his lost PNCC shares.

But if all goes well with the compromise settlement, it would give the PNCC room to work for a balance sheet worthy of public ownership beyond its current 5,000 shareholders, with the government still controlling 70 percent of the corporation.

Teaching by example

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER AGAIN SOMETHING I READ about parenting ages ago. A parent who keeps saying no to a child will not necessarily teach the child to be disciplined and righteous. He or she will probably just end up teaching the kid to say no to everything. That is, to become stubborn and contrary.

The principle is as simple as it is profound: Example is the best teacher there is. How we teach is what we teach. A child hearing his parent telling him constantly not to do things will not learn not to do things. He will learn to constantly tell other people not to do things. Or put another way, he will learn how to act like his parent.

In various interviews with me, particularly by college kids doing their paper in English, I've always been asked how I've raised my kids, whether I'm strict or not, what values I've tried to drum into them. I've always replied that I'm no better or worse than any other parent in the lecturing department, but that if there's a value I've harped on, it is honesty or fairness. Worse than deluding others is deluding yourself. But I've never been big on ramming that down their throats. For one reason: I figure that whatever lessons I want to impart to them I'd teach best by what I am and do. If I do not live a life that's honest and decent, or at least that aspires toward it, nothing I say is going to make them so.

I remembered these things after reading that the clamor for investigating the cheating in the nursing exams has gotten louder and wider. I'm glad it has; there's hope for this country yet. At least Filipinos can still be roused up by major-league acts of dishonesty.

But I don't know why the "thorough investigation" that more and more public and academic officials are clamoring for should be limited to the cheating in the nursing exams. I don't know why that "thorough investigation," if it means to be thorough at all, shouldn't be directed to all instances of monstrous acts of cheating in this country. Indeed, I don't know why that "thorough investigation," if it means to be investigative at all, shouldn't aim to determine the participation, direct or indirect, active or passive, of the highest authorities of the land themselves in cheating in this country.

The point is simple: The highest officials of this country, public or private, secular or religious, are the parents or guardians of this country. What they are and do is what they say and preach. How they act is what they teach. If they lie, cheat and steal, there is no warning against lying, cheating and stealing they can sound to the public that will be heeded. If they aid, abet and find ways to justify lying, cheating and killing, there is no threat they can issue to the public that will deter them from lying, cheating and stealing as well.

I've said my piece about the example GMA has set by stealing the elections. Why should the nurses balk at trying to become bona fide nurses by answering leaked questions when the person claiming to be their bona fide President became so by counting votes from ballot boxes that were more leaky than the oil tanker that sank at the bottom of the sea near Guimaras? Why should the nurses agree to have the results of the exams rendered null and void because some of them cheated when the person claiming to be their President refuses to have the last elections declared null and void because she herself, with no small help from Garci, cheated the hell out of the voters?

But it isn't just GMA who is setting a horrendous example there. I remember again Archbishop Ramon Arguelles' breathtaking statement justifying the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' refusal to back the impeachment bid against GMA: "*Talaga naman nandaya* (*si* GMA)…. *Pero lahat naman nandaya e. Natalo lang 'yung iba sa dayaan* (Of course GMA cheated. But everyone cheated anyway. It's just that the others lost in the cheating)."

Coming from one of the *istambays* who hang out in our neighborhood OTB, that would have been dismaying. Coming from no less than an archbishop, that is reprehensible. One would imagine, as I said in a column in response to that, that the sheer prevalence of cheating would make us say in the face of the mother of all cheating that it was time we did something to make the cheating stop. Not say, *sige na lang*, let is fester till kingdom come.

Indeed, it wasn't just Arguelles who said so, it was Jose de Venecia and the other representatives who refused to impeach GMA who said so. Their official line was that there was no evidence of cheating in the elections—by itself a blatant lie—their unofficial one was that everyone cheats anyway. They went on to say that the country had more important things than cheating to think about, there was the future of the country to think about. As though any country that was built on a lie could possibly have any future.

If I recall right, many Filipinos were already asking last year what kind of world we were leaving the children with the open, brutish and widespread razing of moral values our own leaders had embarked on. Susan Roces asked that expressly when she delivered her "I see no contrition in your eyes" speech at Club Filipino. What lessons, she asked GMA and Mike Defensor, were we teaching the children?

Whatever they are, it's not just the children who are learning them. Everybody is. The nurses are. By all means let us have a thorough investigation of the cheating in the nursing exam, as deep and as wide as is necessary to ferret out the authors of this heinous crime. As we are bound to find out however, the true culprits go beyond a few nursing officials and/or a review center and go way, way up to the very people who run this country.

What they are and what they do are what they teach. Example is the best teacher there is.

Shinzo Abe's grand arrival

WORLD VIEW

Hideaki Kaneda

JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER, SHINZO ABE, has wasted little time in making his mark, particularly in foreign policy. His official visits to China and South Korea—two key countries with which relations suffered under the administration of Junichiro Koizumi—came within a week of his taking office and at a moment of crisis, with North Korea setting off an underground nuclear blast. That Prime Minister Abe and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed that a North Korean nuclear test "cannot be tolerated" suggests that this new activism may help to stabilize Asian security.

As Abe made clear when he delivered the prime minister's general policy speech late last month, his focus on foreign policy is set to intensify. But, while his commitment to what he describes as "future-oriented" relations with China and South Korea represents a welcome departure from the Koizumi government's record, his policy agenda in fact implies considerable continuity with Japan's heightened focus on diplomacy and security issues.

In particular, emphasizing a "shift to more assertive diplomacy," Abe's policy speech cited Japan's initiative in proposing sanctions against North Korea to the United Nations Security Council, and its success in overseeing, through close coordination with the United States and other countries, the resolution's unanimous adoption. At the same time, he indicated his intention to advance diplomacy aimed at strengthening the solidarity among Asian nations, founded on "the Japan-US alliance for the world and for Asia."

Abe also stressed his intention to boost ties with Russia, promote cooperation with Asean countries, and develop a strategic dialogue with Australia and India. Likewise, under Abe, Japan will develop its official development assistance, seek to secure stable energy supplies, and pursue permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Toward North Korea, on the other hand, continuity will prevail, with Abe re-emphasizing the principle that normalization of relations requires resolution of abduction cases—some dating to the 1970s—involving Japanese citizens who were seized from coastal towns. At the same time, Japan will remain committed to the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program.

Abe recognizes the new challenges posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, and has acknowledged the rising expectation, at home and abroad, that Japan's contribution to international security must grow. Most importantly, he has proposed exercising the right collective self-defense on a case-by-case basis—thus far barred by Article 9 of Japan's Constitution—in order to maintain peace and promote effective functioning of the Japan-US alliance. Abe says that he would "expect" the early adoption of the referendum law needed to amend the Constitution.

Abe's choice of personnel clearly reflects his focus on diplomatic and security issues. Yasuhisa Shiozaki, who occupies the key position of cabinet secretary, is a long-time ally, while the foreign minister, Taro Aso, though a rival within the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), shares Abe's policy priorities. Akio Kyuma, the director general of the Defense Agency, which is expected to be transformed into the Ministry of Defense, was instrumental in preventing Aso's ally, Fukushiro Nukaga, from running for LDP president.

Furthermore, Abe will seek to reorganize the prime minister's office to reinforce its ability to function as a political headquarters that can make quick decisions on national strategy concerning diplomatic and security issues. Thus, the prime minister's office will more closely resemble the US White House, which he hopes will enable both countries to communicate their intentions continuously and reliably.

Based on his previous experience as cabinet secretary, Abe wants to create and operate a Japanese version of America's National Security Council. For this, he has appointed Yuriko Koike, a former cabinet member, as one of his five assistants, while one of the other four, Kyoko Nakayama, is responsible solely for the abduction issue. Moreover, although the current assistants' authority is limited, Abe plans to submit legislation aimed at strengthening the prime minister's office, including an amendment of the cabinet law. This would enable the prime minister's assistants to "command and instruct" the relevant ministries and agencies. Abe's government may also increase the number of staff to which the assistants are entitled.

All of this has given rise to depictions of the Abe administration as a "cabinet of hawks" or "the buddy club." Nevertheless, its popular support is the third highest since the end of World War II (63 percent according to Asahi Shimbun, and 70 percent according to Yomiuri Shimbun).

This implies that Abe enjoys a strong mandate to implement his government's policies. But high expectations, both domestically and internationally, can lead to huge disappointments. If Abe is to create the "beautiful country" that he promised in his policy speech, he must not lose momentum in exercising strong leadership. *Project Syndicate*

Hideaki Kaneda, a former vice admiral of Japan's Defense Forces, is director of the Okazaki Institute, Tokyo.

Unification and nuclear tests

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF POPULAR CULTURE IS AN INDICATOR OF what people are talking about, thinking about, dreaming about, then the spate of movies and even TV dramas about the division of Korea in the 1950s should tell us that Koreans, both North and South of the 38th parallel, are still obsessed with unification.

Indeed, some of the most successful South Korean films of recent years have been about the country's division. "Shiri" is a time-traveling espionage film with a female sniper leading a band of North Korean assassins who have penetrated Seoul. In "JSA: Joint Security Area," Korean soldiers across both sides of the demilitarized zone form a tenuous friendship with tragic consequences. "Welcome to Dogmakgol" tells of what happens when North and South Korean soldiers, as well as a wounded American pilot, enter into an initially hostile partnership to save the villagers of a remote hamlet. While "Taegukgi: The Brotherhood of War" was a blockbuster that told the story of two brothers separated by the Korean War.

"A Bold Family," released last year, is an unexpected and quirky contribution to this body of work. It has a fairly simple premise: two brothers resolve to create a scenario of a unified Korea as a final gift to their ageing father who is obsessed with reuniting with the wife and daughter he had left behind in the North.

Director Jo Myeong-nam peppers his film with comic and offbeat scenarios that only barely verge on slapstick, from a mock ping-pong tournament between the united Korea and China, to a performance of what should be a troupe of acrobats from the North but featuring instead a band of clumsy amateurs including the hapless older brother.

* * *

BUT the laughter masks the pathos of a nation. Heartbreaking is the father's desperate longing for the family he had left behind, and the misery this prompts among his South Korean wife and children. When, in a fog of confusion and determination, the old man wanders off and is found in a bus station, waiting to take the trip to see his family in the North, his son chides him: You only see the family you abandoned. But I am your son, don't you see me at all?

There is no happy ending even in this "funny" movie, but there is a grace note, in the form of a letter the old man leaves for his sons after his death. "I know unification doesn't mean a lot to you, but it does to me," he writes. "Just imagine not being able to see your blood family. Few things are sadder than that." Then, referring to his sons' botched attempts to deceive him about unification, he assures them: "I have never been happier than in those few weeks. Your last gift to me ... it was more than amazing."

His granddaughter Hyunjae, who opens the film, narrates her grandfather's last message: "If you're not allowed to see your loved ones, it's sad, and leaving them behind is sadder than that... [I] wish that the day will come when we won't hear such sad stories. I wish the day will come soon."

* * *

BUT even that simple wish is no match to the martial ambitions of leaders and governments.

With the recent nuclear test conducted by North Korea, its "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il has only pushed the grandfather's dream even further away from fulfillment.

South Koreans already live in what has been described as "a state of constant tension," and Monday's reported test can only drive their fears and uncertainty even deeper. Foreign cable news stations reported that Koreans had flocked to supermarkets to stock up on basic goods and commodities, not because they really believed that the North was about to attack soon or rain down nuclear missiles, but because they feared the uncertainty would trigger widespread panic and even shortages.

So far, Korean society seems to be holding together, but governments around the world have banded in a chorus of denunciation, severely criticizing Kim Jong-il for placing the peninsula and all of East Asia in grave peril. There were claims that by entering the small exclusive club of nuclear powers, North Korea had "upset the balance of power" in East Asia. More alarming, in my view, are speculations that North Korea's misadventure may just be the final push needed to prod Japan, and perhaps even South Korea, into developing their own nuclear weaponry.

This development could just put an end to all prospects of reunification. Despite the ties of culture and blood that bind people on both sides of the Korean divide, how can the South and its allies even consider an alliance with a nation with such an unreliable and unstable leadership?

* * *

OF all the statements issued in the wake of Pyongyang's boast of nuclear capability, I was most impressed by that of Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

How could a leader whose nation depends on the international community for food and the basics of survival have diverted its scarce resources into a nuclear weapons program? Howard asked, to the loud agreement of the Parliament.

Why, indeed? But while North Korea may set a particularly egregious example of foolhardy leadership and priorities, given its own abysmal state of poverty, it's a question that could also be posed to the other governments of the nuclear powers club. Russia, China, India and Pakistan are not themselves too far from North Korea in terms of human development achievements, economic prosperity and political stability. Why single out North Korea for condemnation when other countries have developed and maintain their own nuclear weapons cache?

At the end of the day, governments and politicians may trade rhetoric and debate the geo-political implications of their policies, but it is ordinary people, like the grandfather yearning for his family, who must live with the consequences.

The great earthquake of 1863

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

AT THE HEIGHT OF "MILENYO" OUR GATE swung open and began banging against the wall. I told our househelp to close it, and watched as she stood motionless by the garage staring at the howling wind and swirling rain. I had to go out and do it myself to prevent more damage. Up till then, I had thought Milenyo was like any other storm, but this was different: it had more wind than rain. The night before, we were on the North Expressway on our way down from Baguio, when I received a text message saying classes for the next day were suspended and that we better prepare for a strong storm. It was so calm and windless, I thought Pagasa had raised a false alarm.

The next day, when GI sheets from roofs were flying about, trees falling into houses and walls and electric posts swaying dangerously, I looked around and wondered how many people on our street had those palms that were blessed on Palm Sunday hanging by their main door or windows. I didn't have any. My only consolation was that an 18th-century relief of Sta. Barbara was hanging in my kitchen. I looked at her standing with her wind-swept hair in front of a medieval tower, with a crack of lightning in the background. I knew my house would be safe. If that didn't work, I had medals of St. Benedict hanging on all the main doors. Funny how people turn to something unseen and yet larger than ourselves when faced with danger.

The next day, a friend dragged me along to go around Makati and see the extent of the damage to houses, trees and, of course, those billboards that should be legislated out of our lives forever. Everywhere it seemed brighter than usual because much of the shade was gone and we started to see both the beautiful and ugly in the city that those tarpaulin billboards were hiding. While everyone is debating on billboards as a hazard during storms, shouldn't we also consider removing them for creating a "billboard hell," causing "urban blight" or better still, what octogenarian activist Consuelo D. Sison calls the "uglification" of our distinguished and every loyal Metro Manila. A retired school principal, she was asked what dictionary she got the word "uglification" from and she simply replied, "It's the opposite of beautification."

Now that we have survived a typhoon, we are being made to prepare for an earthquake. This reminded me of Higino Benitez's eyewitness account of the great earthquake of 1863. He related this to his daughter-in-law, Paz Marquez Benitez, who published it in 1926. It reads:

"It was about seven when the terrible earthquake of 1863 occurred. On that evening, I had gone to my uncle's house and the table was being prepared for the evening meal. It must have been around seven of a clear evening. Suddenly a shock was felt. It was a severe lateral shock. We rushed down to the ground floor where my uncle, who was a goldsmith, had a shop. There we found my uncle leaning against the tottering glass cases. We threw ourselves on our knees and began to pray. Then came another shock, more terrible than the first. It had a peculiar, sickening, up-and-down movement like a swell. There were noises everywhere. In the little shop, glass was breaking, and everything seemed to be clattering and falling. Then came the worst shock of all. It was circular in movement and very violent. We heard a terrific din outside. Houses and buildings were falling.

"The quake could not have lasted over half a minute. When it stopped, I left the house, much against my uncle's wish, to see the result of the earthquake. I met several friends as bold and thoughtless as I, and together we went the rounds.

"There was ruin everywhere. The brick roofs had crashed down, occasional tiles still falling. The Palace was a complete ruin. The roof of the Cathedral had caved in. At the time of the shock, there was some sort of service in the Cathedral. Luckily, there were not many people, only a few priests, and the choir. The dome over the altar had fallen and crushed two priests, one of them being our famous Fr. [Pedro] Pelaez. When the two [Pelaez and his friend Fr. Ignacio Ponce de Leon] were found later, they were clasped in each other's arms, mangled beyond recognition. The choir singers strangely enough, were found alive. The gallery under which they were standing had withstood the shock and protected them. Of course, the debris and the huge stones of the dome fell about them, burying them so completely that they were not found until many hours later. When rescued, several of them were found to have completely lost all power of speech.

"As we were wandering around the ruins, a startling incident occurred. Out of a little crevice in the debris, a small white figure came out, and fast as a flash, ran away through the streets into the darkness. We learned later that it was the little sacristan who was assisting at the service when the crash came. They found him later in the country, half-crazed with shock and fright. How he was saved, nobody knew.

"There were felt a few more shocks that night, very mild and harmless. Still, the people were uneasy and would not sleep in their houses. My father and my brother and I bundled up our bedding and set out for the fields in Malate. There were hundreds of other people already there, and we thought it was an adventure."

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Best, worst

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW YEARS BACK, THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPpines went into a frenzy after Asiaweek released its rankings of Asia's best universities. In the 1999 ratings, UP ranked 32nd but it dropped to 48th in 2000, still the Philippines' best, but bringing it closer to the ranks of three upstart universities: La Salle was 71st, Ateneo 72nd and the University of Santo Tomas was 78th.

UP's president at that time was Dr. Francisco Nemenzo and he used the figures to good effect, lobbying for a bigger government budget and introducing all kinds of initiatives and incentives to get faculty members and students to maintain the university's excellence.

Sadly, Asiaweek had to close down, so the 2000 ratings were the last. They could have come in handy for UP's current president, Dr. Emerlinda Roman, who has continued the previous administration's incentives but still has to fight an uphill battle with Congress to get UP more money.

I went back to those Asiaweek rankings over the weekend because I felt there are still lessons to pick up from them. Rather than just comparing ourselves to other Philippine universities, we should be looking at the bigger regional picture, asking what's behind the best of the universities.

Leaders

Asiaweek's 2000 survey had the following top 10 multidisciplinary universities (defined as offering a wide range of degree programs "from arts to business to engineering"): Kyoto University, Tohuku University, University of Hongkong, Seoul National University, National University of Singapore, Chinese University of Hongkong, Hongkong University of Science and Technology, Australian National University, University of Melbourne and University of New South Wales.

A first look suggests these universities lead because they are all based in richer countries: Japan, Australia, South Korea and China's Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

It's a good point, but I want you to note as well that except for the Hong Kong universities, all the top 10 institutions are run by government. Also, I did some research and found that even Hong Kong's private universities are heavily subsidized by the government.

Asiaweek's complete list of multidisciplinary universities had 77 institutions, the majority of which were state-run. Moreover, state universities generally were at the top of the list for each country. For example, Thailand had five universities listed, all state-run and coming from different Thai provinces. In contrast, for the Philippines, we had four universities, all Metro Manila-based, with UP leading, followed by three private universities.

Asiaweek had a separate listing for leading science and technology universities. The top 10 were: Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Pohang University of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, Tokyo Institute of Technology, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and Taiwan University of Science and Technology.

Here we find that except for South Korea's Pohang University and Singapore's Nanyang, all the leading institutes are state-run. Not only that, we find India, a country poorer than the Philippines, dominating with their IIT units from all over the country.

Failed model

Why are we where we are today? In the 1960s about 25 percent of our national budget went into education, with neighboring countries sending their scholars to train with us. But starting with the Marcos era, the budget began to go more toward debt servicing. We also began to loosen the Department of Education's supervision of tertiary education, allowing more diploma mills to emerge as long as they catered to the international labor market.

In contrast, countries like Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea continued to invest heavily in state-run institutions, in areas that they knew would be important in the long term, for example, electronics and biotechnology.

With so many success models around us, we insist on following a failed model, that of the United States, which looks at social services as best left to the "free" market, responding to current market demands and minimal state involvement in education, whether through funding for universities or the setting of standards and regulations.

Reacting to my column, one reader sent in an angry letter last week asking why I can't seem to find anything good in America and pointing out that the United States has many government-funded universities and community colleges.

That reader missed my point. The United States does have public universities, but its educational system is mainly driven by free enterprise. A federal Department of Education has minimal supervisory powers; accreditation is left to state and local school boards. There are public universities but funding, as that reader points out, comes from state funds, which is well and good if you live in a rich state, and sorry if you come from a poor one.

How do the public and private universities fare? The US News and World Report's latest report, based on peer ratings, has the following at the top of the list: Princeton, Harvard, Yale, California Institute of Technology, Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, Dartmouth, Columbia.

Those familiar with the American system would have picked up on the pattern: all the ones that have been named are private universities, all charging very high tuition fees.

The highest-ranking public university listed was the University of California-Berkeley, which ranked 21st.

Catching up

All the leading capitalist countries in the world, except for the United States, were founded on a strong social welfare system, meaning money put into social services to give a fighting chance to those who have less in life.

Even neighboring Singapore, often looked at as the most capitalist of Southeast Asian countries, has always kept education and health a primary government concern, seeing these services as an investment in the future. It's not surprising that the National University of Singapore (NUS) is now rated among the world's best, and that Asia's elite fly off to the NUS General Hospital (the equivalent of our Philippine General Hospital) for state-of-the art medical care.

And the Philippines? Last week, there was a near stampede at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) as thousands of Filipinos jostled to get permits to take a Korean language proficiency exam, a requirement to work in South Korea's factories. In a few years, we just might have similar crowds of Filipinos trying to get a job in China and India, with many turned away because they graduated from a neighborhood diploma mill operating out of some mall.

I do see a place for private sector involvement in education, and will explain this in another column. Meanwhile, we must stop trying to be more American than the Americans. Knowing what's best in education, why must we insist on pursuing a course that threatens to make us the worst in the region?

LETTERS

Typhoon 'Milenyo' highlighted sorry state of our infrastructure

THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY Milenyo exposed the weakness of our physical infrastructure system. Metro Manila can tolerate floods, traffic and air pollution. But swinging electric posts, flying roofs, crashing billboards and overturning trucks are not part of our daily hardships. They are disaster spectacles we only love to watch from a safe distance—on our television sets.

Milenyo provided a poignant reminder that our Enchanted Kingdom (formerly known as Strong Republic) rests on shaky grounds. Before creating super regions, shouldn't it be a paramount concern that communities are (always) prepared to deal with disasters? An effective government ensures that the requirements of a dynamic economy—efficient transportation system, communication, power distribution and water supply—are provided, especially in emergency situations.

A strong typhoon should not be made an excuse to justify our government's unsatisfactory relief-and-rescue response. The Philippines is ravaged by more than 20 typhoons every year. To put it another way, we eat strong typhoons for breakfast, so why do we still have a weak infrastructure system? Milenyo offers an opportunity to make the Charter change debate more relevant to the people.

If many of our countrymen are alienated by the "change the system" mantra, then perhaps we should refocus the discussion on issues that really matter in our lives. For example, can Charter change prevent massive loss of lives and property every time a natural disaster hits the country? Can it strengthen our roads, railways, electric posts and roofs? Can it stop flooding, landslides and mudslides (in the urban areas)? Scientists have bad news. Global warming will continue to wreak havoc in the future. This means strong typhoons and long periods of drought. More people will be forced to flee their homes because of environmental disasters.

Perhaps, the key to saving more lives is not the type of government or constitution. What we need is a responsive bureaucracy, responsible private sector and united barangays. We have to underscore the role to be performed by communities in providing quick health and relief assistance and the prevention of looting during natural calamities. Milenyo confirmed our status as a Third World nation.

It also highlighted the sorry state of our vital infrastructure. Some may argue that we may be complaining too much—even the mighty United States could not prevent hurricane Katrina from destroying New Orleans. But if this will always be our line of reasoning, then we will never be a great nation again.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
president, Kabataan Party,
mongpalatino@gmail.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

No flaws in Sigaw ng Bayan's petition

THE FLAWS IN SIGAW NG BAYAN'S PEtition cited by Felicito Payumo (PDI, 9/29/09) are without basis in fact and in law.

1. There is absolutely no parallelism between the Garcia vs Comelec case and Sigaw's petition for Charter change:

a. The recall of Garcia in 1993 was purely political. It was done by the majority of the members (all mayors, vice mayors, councilors of the 12 municipalities of Bataan) under the so-called Preparatory Recall Assembly provided for by the Local Government Code of 1991, which has been repealed by RA 9244 in February 2004. Naturally, procedural and substantive requirements of due process dictate that all the members of the PRA be given notice of the meeting.

b. On the other hand, the Constitution provides initiative as a privilege and right given directly to the people themselves, to be initiated by a required number of signatures of voters. This does not require notice.

2. Payumo misapplied Sec. 13 (f) of RA 6735 which requires that the petition be "signed before the Election Registrar, or his designated representatives, in the presence of a representative of the proponent .... Signature stations may be established in as many places as may be warranted." The section, as its title states, refers only to initiative on local legislations or petitions "proposing to enact a regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay law, resolution or ordinance." (Sec. 3.a.2 of RA 6735)

3. As provided for by Sec. 2, Article XVII of the Constitution and Sec. 5, par. (b) of RA 6735, a petition for an initiative on the Constitution merely requires "at least twelve per centum (12%) of the total number of registered voters as signatories, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum (3%) of the registered voters therein." Thus, both the initiative on the Constitution and national legislation require the verification of signatures of the Election Registrar (Sec. 7, RA 6735) unlike local initiatives.

In fact, the procedure proposed by Payumo would definitely make it easier for the proponents of Cha-cha to gather the required signatures but would entail huge expenses on the part of the government, assuming that the petition for Cha-cha through a people's initiative should be signed before election registrars or their designated representatives. Certainly, those opposed to Cha-cha would not want this to happen.

4. Finally, on the verification of the signatures in the petition, this is a task properly designated to election officers. If we now question the capacity of these election officers to verify the signatures of the petitioners, then we must question as well their capacity to verify all the signatures of the voters every time we have an election.

—ENRIQUE T. GARCIA JR.
governor, Bataan

Petron blameless in oil spill

THIS IS IN REACtion to Noli Reyes' letter titled "Petron guilty of skimping." (PDI, 9/28/06)

The wealthy woman is free of guilt. The sick man takes all. Why? The sick man knows that he is sick to carry a huge pot of cooked food to the next town, so why accept the offer? Even with all the prodding and insistence of the woman, if the sick man would not accept, there's nothing the former can do. So why blame the woman?

In the oil spill of Guimaras, why blame Petron? The owner of MT Solar 1 could have simply elected to refuse the offer, for he knew that the tanker was unfit to transport oil. Had he done so, there would be no oil spill. Period.

—KARINA T. YONSON,
Court of Appeals,
Cagayan de Oro City

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ABC 5	Nickelodeon				PBA				Big News	PBA				Philippine Idol	Sentro	Frontlines		Letty La Mas Fea back-to-back with Doble Cara(rerun)	
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Probe	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Beastmaster (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)	
bTV					Europe Show	NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Jam	NBA Europe Live 2006 Final Four					NBA Europe Live 2006 Final 4					NBA Live	Europe Show
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel; My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy	Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinemax					Evil Has A Face (4:40 PM)				Blind Justice (6:25 PM)			Dead On: Relentless II			A Cry In The Dark (9:35 PM)				A Nightmare On Elm Street 3 Dream Warriors
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Bones		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	I, Detective	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Under Suspicion				Law Firm	
Discovery Channel	Building The Ultimate	Perfect Disaster		American Chopper		Ultimate Discovery		Kings Of Construction		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Ultimate Discovery		A Haunting		Psychic Witness	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon	Kim Possible	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Cheerleading		2006 St. Croix Int'l Triathlon		X Games 11 Classic - 2006 Champs		MLB C'ship Series Game 1						Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		America's Next Top Model		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty and the Geek Season 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Cold Turkey 1 & 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Faith In Motion	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Suffering And The Love Of God	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church & The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Parable	Rome Reports	Special Programming	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Ann Rule's Stranger Beside Me			
HBO			The Molly Maguires				Steel (5:45 PM)				Singles (7:20 PM)			Catwoman			The Flintstones (Movie)		
Hero TV	Gundam Seed	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gosaurer	Gundam Seed	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arirang		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arirang	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite		
JackTV		Raw				Cheat	Filter	Afterburn		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Chappelle's Show	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network		30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Crafts	Food Network Special		Intimate Portrait		Style Star	Fashion Police	Martha		Isaac		Fine Living Special	
MTV Philippines		MTV Screen	VH1 Driven: Janet Jackson		Homewrecker	Score	MTV Hits			Gal Spotted	MTV Screen	TRL		Homewrecker	Score	Diary Of Busta Rhymes	Homecoming	VH1 Driven: Outkast	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Take 5	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Journey Into Amazonia		Planet Wild	Amazing Moments	Kung Fu Dragons Of Wudang		Unlocking Da Vinci's Code		About Asia		Nat Geo Investigates		Outbreak Investigation		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		The Final Say: ChaCha		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Hindi Pa Tapos Ang Laban				Mana				Utang Ni Tatang				Oplan Balikatan				Power Of Two
Qtv	Starry Starry Night	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Now Na!		News On Q	Balikbayan		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Iron Chef		Summerland		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition		Newswatch Now	Cerge For Truth		Kerygma
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				Fulltilt Poker		Ford 500 Highlights		Billiards: WC Pool		Sagupaan	Rookie Manual	ECW		Undisputed		Sportsdesk		NFL Game	
Star Movies				The Arrangement				The Triumph (5:50 PM)			Rapid Fire (7:25 PM)			AVP: Alien Vs. Predator			Sharkman (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Ed		Grey's Anatomy		NCIS		Seinfeld	Ed
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	CSI	24 (8:15 PM)		It's A Guy Thing		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		Men's Room

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No pro-, anti-Red meets in churches

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—A BISHOP ASKED priests in his diocese to prevent the military and other armed groups from using chapels and churches in their villages as venues for pro- or anticommunist seminars.

Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros issued the order after he approved a recommendation by the diocese's Council of Priests to disallow the use of places of worship as meeting places of government troops or communist guerrillas.

"Chapels, schools, and hospitals and health centers may not be used as a meeting place for indoctrination by any armed group. Any person who wishes to enter the chapel must leave his firearms outside," according to a statement in the diocese's weekly journal.

The diocese has at least 1,203 parishes and quasiparishes in 22 towns and three cities of Bulacan, including Valenzuela City. More than 700 village chapels have been established in the province, records showed.

Col. Rommel Gomez, head of the Army's 703rd Infantry Brigade which operates in this city and coastal towns, defended the military's use of the chapels, saying these were "public places."

"Churches are public places ... the priests are rarely seen in the barangays and some residents say they only visit villages on Sundays and special days," he said.

He said he would not appeal Oliveros' decision because he believed that residents of the villages were the right people to decide on the issue.

The use of chapels or churches for anticommunist seminars started during the time of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan who vowed before he retired to crush the insurgency during his tenure, but failed.

The continued murders of Left leaders, including members of the Church, were attributed to the all-out war mounted by Palparan.

On Tuesday, political activists urged Tarlac Gov. Jose Yap to initiate an independent investigation of the Oct. 3 killing of Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento in Tarlac City.

Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said Yap could help debunk police findings that the motive for the murder was simple robbery.

Yap and Ramento used to work together in a panel helping the government and the Communist Party of the Philippines reach a peace agreement.

Until 2003, the governor was a member of the government's negotiating team. The bishop, on the other hand, was a third-party observer to the process.

Ramento also headed the Tarlac Diocese of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Philippine Independent Church) until his death.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Yap for comment on Tuesday but an aide said the governor was resting in San Jose town following his arrival from a three-week business trip to the United States.

Hicap said Yap could help bolster the findings of a private fact-finding panel headed by the Public Interest Law Center. On Monday, the panel released its report showing only one killer, not five as police had claimed.

The team said the bishop was stabbed while he was asleep. It said two "show wounds" were found on the bishop's body to make it appear that he had struggled against the attacker.

Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac police director, stood by his team's findings.

The police's crime laboratory has not yet released the results of tests seeking to find out if the bloodstains and fingerprints on the supposed weapon used, a kitchen knife, matched with those of the four arrested suspects.

Roman Polintan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Central Luzon, said that if Yap agreed to call for an independent probe of the bishop's killing, this would send a signal to "death squads" to stop the spate of political killings in Tarlac and other parts of the region. *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

JUST
ALL VIC
OF

GRIEF JOAN BONDOC
Relatives, friends and human rights activists light candles at the Aglipayan Church in Manila during the wake for Aglipayan Bishop Ramento who was murdered by still unidentified men in his office in Tarlac City. Ramento was the latest victim of a string of murders that are committed with impunity. Leftist activists accuse the Arroyo administration of perpetrating the murders in the course of its total war on communist guerrillas.

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Market bomb blast hurts 4; Army sees JI hand in attack

TACURONG CITY—A BOMB EXploded at a public market here past noon yesterday, injuring four persons in what military officials said could be an attack by terrorists in retaliation for the holding of the wife of a suspect in the Bali terror attack.

One of the injured, who was not identified, was in serious condition.

Stall owners saw a man place a box near a toilet in the market, according to Supt. Joey Limson, Sultan Kudarat police chief.

Police said the vendors alerted a guard who checked the box of chips and saw wires in it. The guard carried the box away from the crowded area of the market and was about to call police ordnance experts when the bomb exploded, wounding the four passersby.

The victims were brought to the Sandig Medical Clinic here. Police said they suffered shrapnel wounds.

Limson said police could not identify yet the bomb maker or determine the motive for the attack.

But Col. Felipe Tabas, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade based in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, said the attack could be the work of the Jemaah Islamiyah in retaliation for the holding of the wife of JI bomb expert Dulmatin, an Indonesian.

"This could also be part of their plan," Tabas said.

He said the suspect entered the market inconspicuously and pretended to buy stuff.

"These are part of their terrorist activities," said Tabas.

He said the JI initially planned to carry out the attack on Sept. 11 in time for the anniversary of the terror attack on the United States "but could not penetrate the area" because of tight security.

"This is pure terrorism," said Tabas.

Dulatin's wife, Istiada H. Oemar Sovie, was held for questioning in Patikul, Sulu by military and immigration officials.

She confirmed that Dulmatin and another JI bomb expert, Umar Patek, were still hiding on Sulu's Jolo Island, protected by the Abu Sayyaf terror group.

Dulmatin and Patek, who have bounties on their heads worth $11 million offered by the US government, have been linked to the October 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali which killed 202 people, mostly Australian tourists.

Sovie also informed investigators that her husband's students in bomb making lessons included Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas.

Authorities placed Central Mindanao in a state of high alert in response to reports of planned bomb attacks by terrorists.

The military, quoting intelligence reports, said at least 30 JI operatives are in Mindanao.

At least four of them, authorities said, were behind the 2002 Bali bombings.

The JI, the Southeast Asian branch of the international terror network al-Qaida, was believed to be getting sanctuary from Moro guerrillas in Mindanao, but the MILF, the biggest active Moro guerrilla group on the island, denied ever providing shelter to terror suspects.

The MILF is currently negotiating a peace agreement with the government. The talks are on hold following a deadlock on territorial issues. *Aquiles Zonio and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Watch this space Monday, Wednesday and Friday for reports on S.O.S. Sorsogon

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Yolanda B. Fernandez

Hundred Islands: Birds' haven

THE FLATMUD is a playground for the greater sand plovers, lesser sand plovers and red-necked stints.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GERRY DE VILLA/ THE WILD BIRDS CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Alaminos City

ISLAND-HOPPING AT THE HUNDRED ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK in Alaminos City in Pangasinan does not only offer a close view of the marine creatures that abound in its waters. Different species of native and migratory birds have also found haven there.

A perfect place to enjoy a picture perfect view of both water birds and forest birds

"Bird watching is a big thing around the world and bird watchers in the country are excited about the proliferation of different birds on the Hundred Islands," said Ramon Siojo, program director of the Eco Rescue Volunteers.

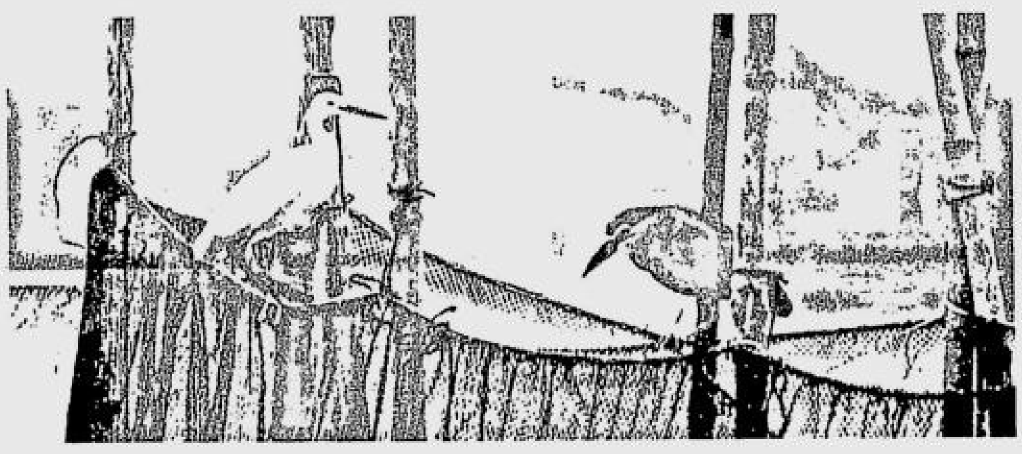
Siojo informed Agerico de Villa of the Wild Birds Club of the Philippines about his "find." Thrilled, De Villa brought British Jon Hornbuckle, one of the world's top bird watchers, to the park to identify the species.

One cloudy day in July, De Villa, Hornbuckle, Camarines Norte Judge Irma Boncodin, Rolando "Buboy" Franciso (one of the founding members of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers) and Ismael Najera of the city government, boarded a speedboat to inspect the islands and the Alaminos River.

POMPADOUR green pigeon

The adventure started on the northern islets where bird watchers had seen roseate terns (*Sterna dougallii*) and black nape terns.

Although there was no roseate tern sighted, the group was delighted to find black nape terns "flying and diving with other birds."



LITTLE egret and rufous night heron atop a fish pen.

After some minutes, De Villa, in a report, said the boatman pointed to a chick peeping out of a hole along the side of an islet—a black-nape hatchling "with a parent nervously guarding (it)."

A show

The trip did not disappoint the bird watchers who, while going around the islets, were treated to a "show" of Philippine ducks flying or perched atop a cliff, Asian glossy startlings, Pacific swallows and swiftlets.

De Villa said an island was populated by black-crowned and rufous night herons.

"They seemed disturbed, probably because of egg poaching that occurred a week earlier during which 60 eggs were taken," he said.

A major island, Kamantiles, is home to the pompadour green pigeon (*Treron pompadora*), white-eared brown dove, mangrove blue flycatcher, oriental magpie robin, sunbirds, hooded *pita*, Philippine coucals, yellow-vented *bulbul* and pied fantails, and Philippine *bulbul*.

"On two occasions, I [heard] distinctly a sound like a chicken's. I [tried] to find it but the sound only brought me [deeper] into the thickets. I was looking for a jungle fowl. I later asked the boatman if jungle fowls had been seen in the island and the boatman said there used to be plenty with [him] personally catching some of them when this was not yet prohibited," said De Villa.

The Alaminos River, which has thickly forested banks, is another bird sanctuary where the bird watchers counted at least 38 species.

"Little terns, black-crowned night heron, rufous herons are perched all over the fish pens. The fish pen owners seemed not to be interested in scaring them off, or even shooting, these as in fish pen areas elsewhere in the country," De Villa said.

There could have been more birds in there, but the party had to go. Off they went into a mudflat where they saw red-necked stints (*Calidris ruficollis*), lesser sand plovers, greater sand plovers, godwits and Philippine ducks.

The group counted 57 bird species on the islands. It is expected that until October, thousands of migratory birds will arrive to find shelter in the national park.

Habitat

Mayor Hernani Braganza said the large number of wild ducks, terns and herons may have chosen the islets as their habitat because of their improved vegetation or abundance of food, tranquility and proximity to the city's mangrove park and bodies of water.

Hornbuckle, in a meeting with Braganza, lauded the local government for its efforts to protect the wildlife in the national park. He has identified 8,000 bird species across the globe for almost 30 years.

He said birds are basically an indicator of a good or healthy environment. He believed that the birds had found a perfect niche where they could grow and multiply.

And bird watchers, both local and international, can find the islands a perfect place to enjoy a picture-perfect view of both water birds and forest birds in one setting.

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An accidental filmmaker

By Delmar Cariño
Buguias, Benguet

COLLEGE DROPOUT SAMUEL Dangpa has never set foot on a filmmaking school, but his alias, Samiklad, has become a byword among indigenous folks in Benguet, Ifugao and other remote villages of the Cordillera.

Little did the 40-year-old Dangpa expect that his decision to quit an education course at the University of the Cordilleras in Baguio City and leave the Lutheran seminary afterward would immerse him in the world of filmmaking.

The native of Loo in Buguias, Benguet, had worked for Don Leonard, an American preacher and bible producer, who was connected with the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Dangpa, a father of four, was assigned the task of translating bibles into the vernacular. His job brought him to the remote villages of Benguet, Ifugao and some parts of Mindanao. Fate though would lead the volunteer church worker to become a film director.

Out of curiosity, Dangpa used Leonard's video camera to take shots of Baguio City's destruction following the 1990 earthquake.

"I did not exactly know how to use the video camera but I just followed how Leonard used it," he said.

His shots of the ruins pushed him to come up with a 30-minute video documentary in 1993. He entered his work in a contest sponsored by Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. and won the top prize of P15,000.

Serious filmmaking

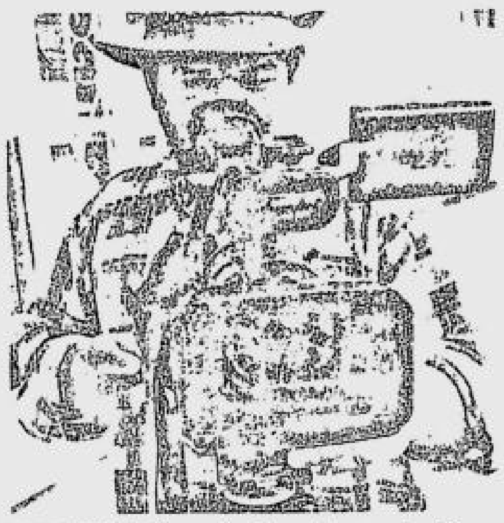
Buoyed by the success of his production, Dangpa, then 27, decided to go into serious filmmaking.

That same year, he produced "Hay Paumbatan Cristian" (Christians Going to Heaven), which was shot in Ifugao and recorded in the vernacular.

The two-hour, eight-millimeter film became a certified hit, particularly among evangelical and mission workers who were then looking for alternative media to spread the gospel.

Today, Dangpa has produced and directed 20 films that tackle stories about marital infidelity, tribal wars, family ties, overseas employment, cultural conflicts and gospel films.

Two of his films produced in 2004—"Din Sungbat" (The Answer), about a philandering husband, and "Sabong Di Kada" (Flower of the Mountain), about a woman who wanted wealth—are the most sought-after among local viewers.



"SAMIKLAD" readies for a shoot using his high-definition movie camera in his home studio in Baguio City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dangpa's films have made viewers cry and their CD copies have been sold out. These have also reached indigenous communities in Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela and Cagayan.

Perhaps a testament to the popularity of the films was the interest of film pirates to reproduce and distribute his works.

Dangpa uses only one camera, a high-definition Sony film recorder. He boasts though of top-of-the-line post-production equipment worth $20,000 at his home studio in Mines View in Baguio. He got his equipment from volunteer groups of Leonard's Video Mission International when he brought his films for exhibition in seven US states years ago.

Dangpa has no stable of actors. He assembles his cast from the community where he will shoot. He is not particular with props, cinematography, subplots or other features typical of a Hollywood or Philippine movie.

Message

"What is important is the message," he said.

His plots are drawn from the experiences of people in the community, he said.

Before film work, Dangpa gathers his cast, relates the story, and assigns the roles of actors and actresses. There is no script. During an actual take, he just tells the performer what to say, and presto, the camera starts rolling.

It takes him a week to complete shooting, but the films will be released only a month later due to post-production work.

Dangpa's films are patronized because they are in the vernacular, Pastor Herman Dinomla, 53, of the Banaue Evangelical Church in Ifugao, said. "The actors are local and so are the locations. The old folks like it because they could identify themselves with the characters," he said.

DENR warns vs reuse of contaminated drums

LUCENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources proposed the use of a color coding system to warn people against the reuse of drums that originally contained toxic industrial wastes.

Roberto Sheen, director of the Environment Management Bureau of the DENR's Southern Tagalog office, said the color coding scheme, if approved, should be enforced nationwide.

"Using those contaminated drums is dangerous to the health of the public," he said in a phone interview.

Licensed recyclers of hazardous wastes are not supposed to dispose of these drums after one recycling or reuse, he said. "They have to use it again and again until it has fully served its purpose."

The sale of drums disposed of by factories is common but Sheen said this was dangerous.

The DENR and an environmentalist group two weeks ago found two dumps in Candelaria and Sariaya towns in Quezon littered with hundreds of plastic and steel drums that contained toxic industrial wastes.

Some of the containers bore skull and bone warning signs, indicating their contents were toxic.

Workers at the dump said they got the drums for free from an official of the Clean Earth Solutions International Inc. (CESII), a licensed waste recycler in San Pablo City, on condition that they be the ones to dispose of the drums.

The environmentalist group Tanggol Kalikasan said each drum's capacity was 200 liters.

Sheen said the DENR would call a meeting with licensed recyclers in Southern Tagalog to stop the practice of using contaminated drums for household water.

Forty-one other firms had been licensed to recycle toxic wastes in the region.

The DENR issued a cease and desist order to the CSEII and padlocked its gates while it was being investigated for violations of environmental laws.

Engineer Salvador Llave Jr., technical manager of the plant, said the plant did not violate any law. He said the drums found in the two dumps were stolen from the plant.

Sheen said the CSEII offered to clean up the dumps.

But lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of TK, said the CSEII should not be absolved of criminal liability by its cleanup operation.

"Cleaning the place is not absolution," said Perez.

"With their gross incompetence, that part of the province and Mount Banahaw is now the toxic depository of an estimated 500,000 liters of different kinds of hazardous wastes," Perez said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Duterte dared: Name mayor in drugs

COTABATO CITY—ALL 29 TOWN MAYORS of Maguindanao have dared Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to identify the town mayor whom he said was caught in possession of 3.5 kg of shabu last month.

Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan had a meeting with all the mayors on Oct. 5 to verify Duterte's claim that a "Cotabato mayor" was caught transporting illegal drugs using an ambulance a month ago.

Duterte said the town mayor was immediately released after his arrest. Duterte also refused to name the policemen who made the arrest.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol took up the cudgels for Duterte to clarify that Duterte meant Maguindanao, not Cotabato.

"I talked to Mayor Duterte and he told me he was referring to the then empire Cotabato prior to its division (creating Maguindanao)," said Piñol, who also declined to name who that mayor was.

Maguindanao town mayors challenged Duterte to identify the mayor.

"It's about time Mayor Duterte should spill the beans because all of us have become suspects," said Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura.

All the mayors denied the accusation.

Parang Mayor Talib Abo said he was willing to swear before the Koran to prove that he is not the one being alluded to in text messages that were circulating.

"I'm being referred to as Mayor Sha-Abo but there is no truth to it," Abo said.

"Anytime, anywhere, I'm willing to be investigated if that's what they want just to prove that I am not the one being alluded to by Mayor Duterte," Abo said.

"Allah knows and I can't lie especially so that we are in the fasting month of Ramadan," he added.

Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

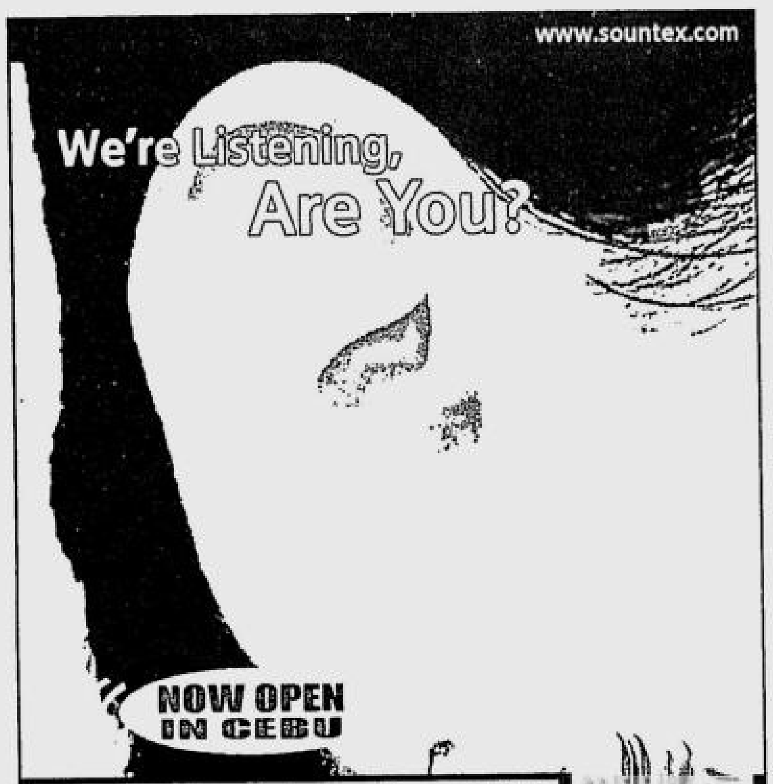
Firm fined P10,000 for spill

BATANGAS CITY—A firm was fined P10,000 for spilling caustic soda into a bay in Bauan, Batangas.

The Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Unit said it imposed the fine on the Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. (MVC) after it found that one of the firm's workers failed to close a valve through which the caustic soda passed and spilled into the bay on Sept. 23 at the Batangas Bay Terminal Inc.

It was the second spill to hit the town in three months. In June, several hundred liters of sulfuric acid spilled into the bay from the Keppel Shipyard.

The spills prompted fish traders to pull out investments, according to officials, as consumers refused to buy fish coming from the bay. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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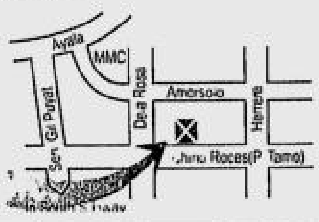
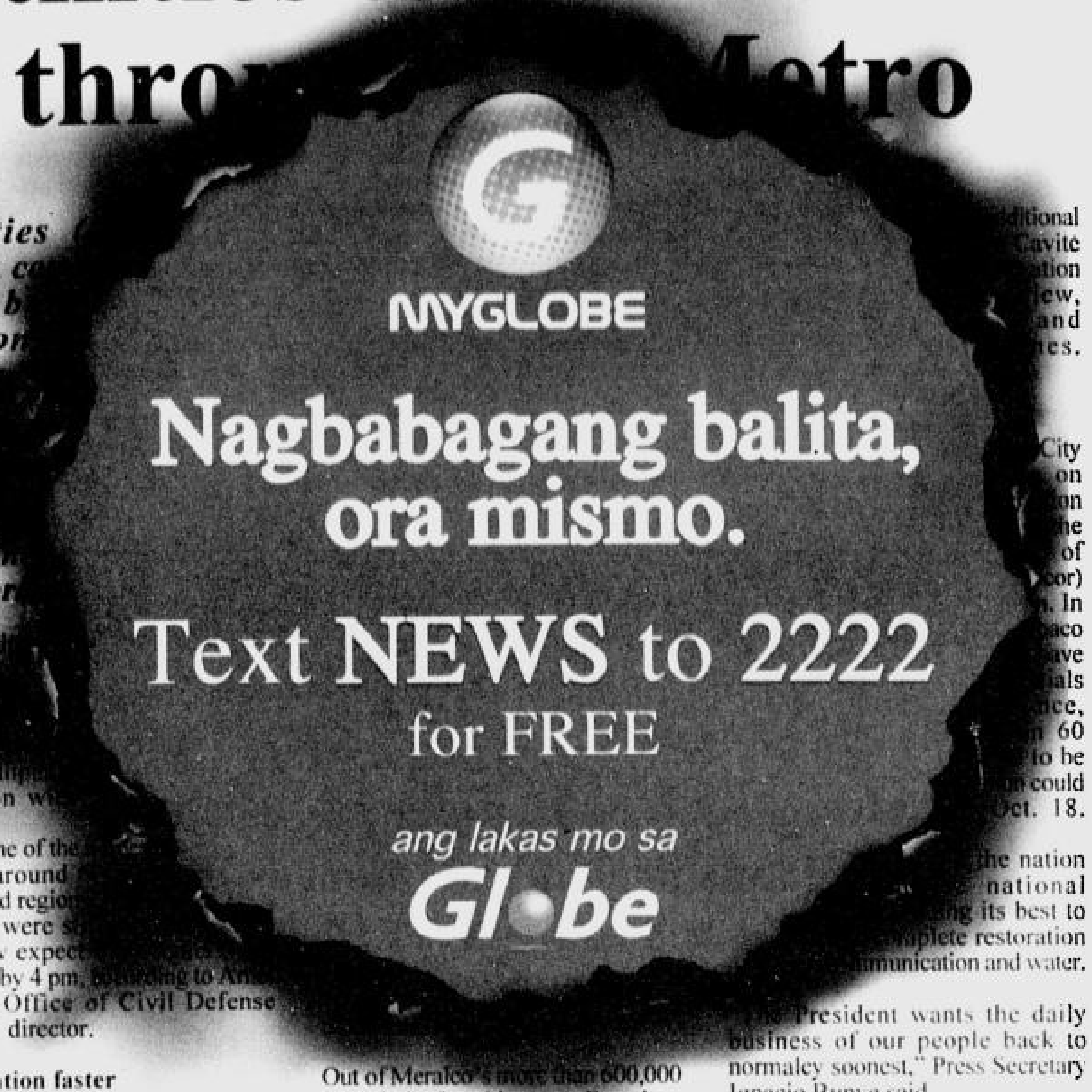


Utilities to be restored thro[illegible] Metro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Bicol, one of the [illegible] where around [illegible] estimated region[illegible] million were s[illegible] can now expec[illegible] back on by 4 pm, [illegible] to An[illegible] Capili, Office of Civil Defense regional director.

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[illegible] the nation [illegible] national [illegible] its best to [illegible] complete restoration [illegible] communication and water.

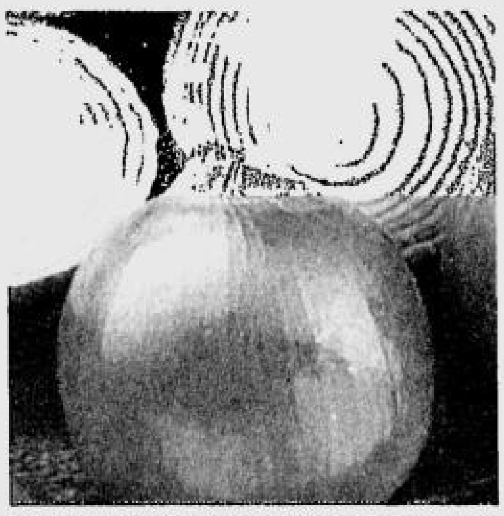
"The President wants the daily business of our people back to normalcy soonest," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Communications

Meralco has restored power in all 124 of its circuits in the northern area (from Malabon to Balintawak in Quezon City), 319 of the 386 circuits in the central area (from Balintawak to Alabang), and 100 of the 150 circuits in the southern area. (from Alabang to Batangas and Quezon).

Cheap onion imports killing local growers

By Cynthia D. Balana


IMPORTED ONION: Less than a centavo per kilo

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSIONER JOSE Mario Buñag and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves met with a group of onion farmers yesterday and pledged to go after illegal importers of onions in the country.

In a meeting on Monday, onion farmers from Nueva Ecija complained to the two government officials about the almost decade-long illegal importation of onions, which runs to millions of metric tons, that is slowly killing local onion growing.

The importation cost of the product was reported at less than one centavo per kilo but the importers sell these onions from P35 to P45 per kilo in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, the farmers said. They also believe there has been gross underdeclaration of importation costs.

Buñag assured them that local governments would be enlisted to check the problem and to enhance tax collection efforts of the government.

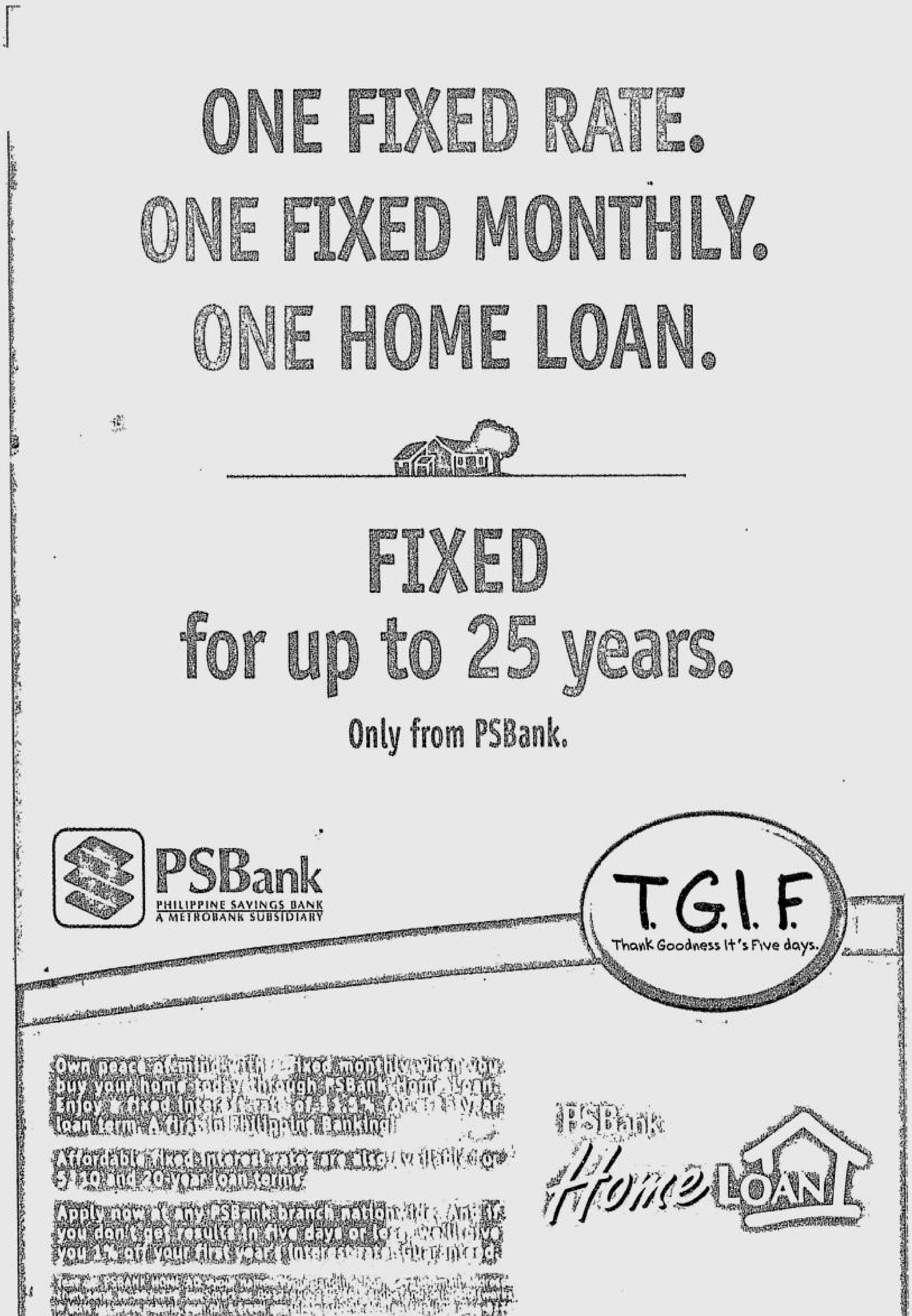
Teves, on the other hand, instructed the BIR to conduct a tax compliance verification drive and tax mapping operations on identified illegal onion importers and exporters. He also issued alert orders to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and instructed them to undertake seizure proceedings against violators.

Teves said the finance department would also look into the possible involvement of government officials in these illicit operations.

Buñag said that revenue field officials immediately checked on the tax compliance of onion importers and exporters operating in Metro Manila for possible tax evasion activities. Surveillance and evaluation of the importers' operations were carried out in targeted business places in Tondo, Malate, Binondo, Quiapo, Mandaluyong, Caloocan, Novaliches, Pasig, Makati, Valenzuela, Plaridel and Cabanatuan City.

The preliminary report on tax mapping undertaken by the BIR showed that majority of identified onion importers and exporters failed to file their business tax returns for 2004 and 2005, while others failed to file their returns in 2002 and 2003. Also, some did not have the required Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), while others claimed a "No Operations" status.

Some onion-importers and exporters had also been found to be engaged in other businesses, like, quarrying and selling motor vehicle parts.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P38-B shortfall in revenue seen

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT COULD miss its 2007 revenue target by as much as P38.3 billion because of slower economic growth and loopholes in the tax collection system, a congressional think tank said yesterday.

The shortfall is seen to come even if government is expected to surpass its revenue targets in 2006 by P14.9 billion, the Congressional Planning and Budget Department (CPBD) said in a paper titled "Financing the 2007 Budget."

The expected 2007 revenue shortfall endangers the government target of achieving a balanced budget by 2008 and securing funds for infrastructure and social services, particularly President Macapagal-Arroyo's program to create five "super regions" that would lead development.

According to the President's 2007 budget message, "higher revenues will help reduce borrowings which in turn will enable the government to spend more in the super regions, education and health."

Lower than projected

However, CPBD simulation studies indicate that the 2007 revenue target of P1.1 trillion may not be achieved because of "lower-than-projected revenue effort and GDP [gross domestic product] growth."

The CPBD said the government was likely to exceed its revenue goal in 2006 not from efficiency in tax collection, but from the revenue windfall from the increase in oil prices and the income of the Bureau of Treasury.

It said that tax collection estimates for 2007 hinged on real GDP growth and improvements in implementation of tax laws.

If the economy does not grow at 5.7 to 6.5 percent, as assumed in the 2007 proposed budget, and loopholes in tax administration are not attended to, the government would likely miss its revenue goal by as much as P29.2 billion or P38.3 billion, the CPBD said.

The P29.2 billion figure assumes 16.3 percent revenue effort and 5.3 percent GDP growth. The P38.3 billion figure assumes 16.3 percent revenue effort and 4.7 percent GDP growth.

The CPBD said it expects GDP to grow by 4.7 to 5.3 percent instead of the government target of 5.7 to 6.5 percent because of the prospects of slower growth in Japan and the United States which "may retard export growth" and threat of the El Niño weather phenomenon which could depress agricultural productivity.

It also took into consideration domestic concerns like the 2007 elections and other political uncertainties.

The CPBD said that if the revenue shortfall reaches P38.3 billion, this would translate into a fiscal deficit of P101.3 billion, or 1.5 percent of GDP.

Taming the deficit

The government has committed itself to taming the budget deficit to less than one percent of GDP to achieve a balanced budget by 2008.

Failure to realize the revenue target would mean resorting to more borrowings "unless cash disbursements are kept within tolerable limits to project a good bottom line," the CPBD said.

It said that the expected total government borrowing for 2007 could even be higher than the P390.8 billion that government projected "because what was reflected in the government's financing program is already net of loans maturing during the year and contribution to the bond sinking fund."

Actually, total borrowings would amount to P1.02 trillion, the CPBD said.

"Government spending that could support development programs has been stymied owing to poor tax collections and debt overhang. It is important, therefore, to sustain fiscal reforms that could enhance resource mobilization," the congressional think tank said.

It said that the policy issues that confront that Arroyo administration for fiscal year 2007 involve funding "creative" ways to provide public goods, improving investment climate, increasing productivity and securing the gains of reform measures.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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DPWH
MAINTENANCE
SORRY FOR THE CONVENIENCE

GOING DOWN
Workers from the Department of Public Works and Highways started dismantling oversized billboards along Edsa yesterday. Typhoon "Milenyo" toppled many huge outdoor ads in the Metro. RAFFY LERMA

Judge suspended for child abuse

'Stop hearing cases until cleared'

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS SUSPENDED Caloocan Regional Trial Court Judge Adoracion Angeles who had been convicted for child abuse by a Quezon City court on July 17.

The high court said Angeles would be suspended "from performing her judicial functions while awaiting the final resolution of her criminal cases or until further orders from the court."

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco had earlier asked the high tribunal to stop the judge from hearing cases until she is cleared of the child abuse charges.

"Judge Angeles now stands convicted on two counts of crime, child abuse under Republic Act 7610, which involves moral turpitude. Until she clears her name of such conviction, her current moral qualification to do the work of a judge is under a dark cloud," he said.

Velasco added, "Litigants seeking justice in our courts are entitled to a hearing by judges whose moral qualifications are not placed in serious doubt."

Angeles was charged with two counts of child abuse in 1999 by a teenage girl who had worked as a maid in the judge's household.

Hold graft case filed in Sandigan, Binay asks

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY HAS ASKED the Sandiganbayan to suspend the proceedings on a graft case filed against him and several other city officials over an alleged scam involving the purchase of office furniture from 1999 to 2001.

In a petition filed on Monday, Binay, along with six of his coaccused, said there was "due unhaste" when the case against them was elevated to the antigraft court. He added that the case was the result of a "piecemeal investigation" the Ombudsman had conducted based on a "faulty" Commission on Audit report.

"Until the Ombudsman finishes the investigation in its entirety, any and all proceedings (on the case) before this Honorable Court such as, and starting with, the determination of probable cause for purposes of determining the propriety of issuing warrants of arrest, should be held in abeyance," the mayor's motion read.

The graft case lodged against Binay, wife Elenita—who was Makati mayor at the time of the purchase—four city officials and five others was based on a complaint filed by Binay's political rival, Roberto Brillante.

Brillante filed the complaint after a COA report found alleged irregularities in the purchase of P231 million worth of office furniture for the new Makati City Hall from 1999 to 2001. The report said the bidding was allegedly rigged to favor certain companies, while the furniture purchased was overpriced by over P53 million.

One gun killed two men—PNP

By Alcuin Papa

ONLY ONE GUN WAS USED TO KILL FORMER communist leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman and Pablo Glean, the security chief of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP).

This led Director Marcelo Ele, chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management (DIDM), to conclude that Glean's killing last Sept. 16 was most likely perpetrated by the Left.

Ele said a "cross-matching" conducted by the PNP Crime Laboratory on the .45 slug recovered from the Glean murder revealed that it was fired from the same gun used in the killing of Lagman. "There is a big possibility this (Glean murder) was carried out by the Left," he added.

Glean was shot dead in Taguig City by still unidentified gunmen. Lagman, on the other hand, was gunned down in February 2001 on the University of the Philippines, Diliman campus. Both cases remain unsolved.

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Politicians' billboards next on DPWH list

By Leila B. Salaverria and Nikko Dizon

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND highways yesterday began dismantling billboards on Edsa, starting with the 35 outdoor ads posted alongside tracks of the Metro Rail Transit 3 line and in its 13 stations.

Billboards, however, are not the only roadside structures on the department's list. It added that politicians' advertisements, electrical posts and transmission lines that encroach on the road right-of-way are the next to go.

The DPWH has been dismantling illegal and hazardous billboards on national thoroughfares in compliance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administrative order after Typhoon "Milenyo" knocked down many billboards in Metro Manila on Sept. 28.

Emmanuel Cuntapay, director of the DPWH's National Building Code Development Office, said the department would start with the big outdoor advertisements located in MRT terminals, and later, the billboards beside the tracks and posts.

Based on the DPWH's inventory, there are 2,161 billboards in Metro Manila. Of the total, only 435 have been inspected by the department so far for structural integrity with 375 recommended for dismantling.

"The safety of our people is our top priority, we will never let another life be lost due to illegal structures built within the boundaries of our national roads," Ebdane said.

He urged the public to send their complaints about public works by texting 2920 following the format: DPWH [space] message [space] name.

Ebdane said the complaints would be forwarded to concerned officials who would be given three days to take action.

The numerous advertising billboards on the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) should also be torn down because they pose a danger to the airport, Alfonso Cusi, Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) chief said yesterday.

"It's also urgent that the billboards on SLEx be removed, not only those on Edsa," Cusi said in a phone interview.

He expressed concern that should another strong typhoon like Milenyo hit Metro Manila, debris from the billboard's tarpaulins could be blown onto runways of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, meanwhile, warned that some policemen were preventing officials from the DPWH and local governments from dismantling billboards.

Ms Arroyo has certified Santiago's Anti-Billboard Blight Act as urgent. The bill regulates the placement of outdoor ads nationwide.

Expect heavy traffic caused by outdoor ads dismantling

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WARNING: REMOVING BILLBOARDS could lead to heavy traffic.

The start of an all-out crackdown on billboards on Edsa led to traffic snarls yesterday, an occurrence that motorists should expect for the duration of the Department of Public Works and Highways' clearing operations along the major thoroughfare.

Motorists traveling on the northbound lane found themselves founding at a snail's pace, with the traffic buildup stretching from Magallanes in Makati to Santolan in Quezon City.

According to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Metro Base, traffic slowed down to a crawl on the northbound lane at a few minutes past 8 a.m. after the DPWH and MMDA clearing crew started tearing down billboards at stations of the Metro Rail Transit 3 railway system.

"This is for the safety of motorists. Instead of seeing billboards collapse on the road right-of-way, these should be removed. We have been waiting for this for a long time and we should take advantage of this opportunity," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director.

He added that the clearing operations would continue "until there are no more illegal billboards.

"For as long operations are on-going on Edsa, then they could expect this [kind of traffic] every day.

"But once operations move to illegal billboards on private property, then traffic won't be as affected."

Based on field reports, the clearing operations began near Farmer's Market in Cubao at 8:33 a.m., in Santolan a minute later, on Edsa corner Pioneer in Manduyong City at 9:08 a.m., at the intersection of Gil Puyat (Buendia) Avenue in Makati City at 9:09 a.m., on Edsa corner Timog Avenue at 9:27 a.m., and in Guadalupe at 9:38 a.m.

The simultaneous tearing down operations were part of the national government's campaign to remove hazardous billboards on major roads following the collapse of at least 40 billboards when Typhoon "Milenyo" roared through Metro Manila on Sept. 28.

"Operations really have to be done in the morning as they would be more dangerous to conduct at night (when traffic is not that heavy), because that would need more lighting and it would be more risky to those who go up the billboards," Vergel de Dios said.

Proof needed to find cause of suspect's death in Caloocan jail

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) will ask the Northern Police District (NPD) to submit physical evidence to help them determine whether the death of a suspect tagged as the gunman in the robbery and murder of a television cameraman was intentional or accidental.

Lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy director for regional operations service, said he has tasked NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala to head the investigation of the death of Ernani Magnayon, the alleged gunman in the killing of RPN 9 cameraman Ralph Ruñnz.

Magnayon was allegedly shot by Jail Officer 2 Ricardo Zulueta, a visiting jail guard, around noon Saturday inside the Caloocan City Jail where the victim was detained.

Zulueta claimed his service firearm went off as he tried to place it under his pillow while the victim was giving him a massage.

"It is only prudent that an impartial investigation be conducted by the NBI," Esmeralda said, adding that the bureau would subpoena Zulueta.

Esmeralda said the NBI would also conduct an inspection of the jail facility where the incident happened.

The NBI stepped into the case upon the request of Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director, "to erase any impression of a cover-up."

Magnayon and two policemen, Chief Insp. Bryan Limbo and P03 Aristotle de Guzman, who were also linked to the Ruñez case, were detained in the same facility. Zulueta was there to visit his colleagues.

Before his death, Magnayon was reported to be ready to admit to the crime and testify against the two policemen, according to sources. Magnayon's family had earlier filed a motion asking the court to let the NBI handle the investigation of the case against him, Bataoil said.

METROBRIEFS

Man killed in road mishap

A MAN was killed while three others were injured after a sports utility vehicle fell off the Skyway in Pasay City and fell on a jeepney yesterday. Lt. Yasminda Apolinar, executive officer of the Air Force General Hospital in Villamor Air Base, identified the fatality as Abner Ditaunan. Injured were jeepney passengers Roldan and Imelda Garcia and the driver of the Isuzu Trooper, Randy Danlag. Ditaunan, who was seated at the back of the jeepney, was declared dead on arrival at the hospital after sustaining multiple skull and chest fractures. The three others suffered cuts and bruises, said Apolinar. Danlag said he was traveling on the southbound lane of the Skyway when a Toyota Fortuner bumped his vehicle at around 1:50 p.m. The impact sent the Isuzu Trooper crashing through the railings. It then fell off the 14-feet high flyover and landed on the jeepney, he added.

Jocelyn R. Uy

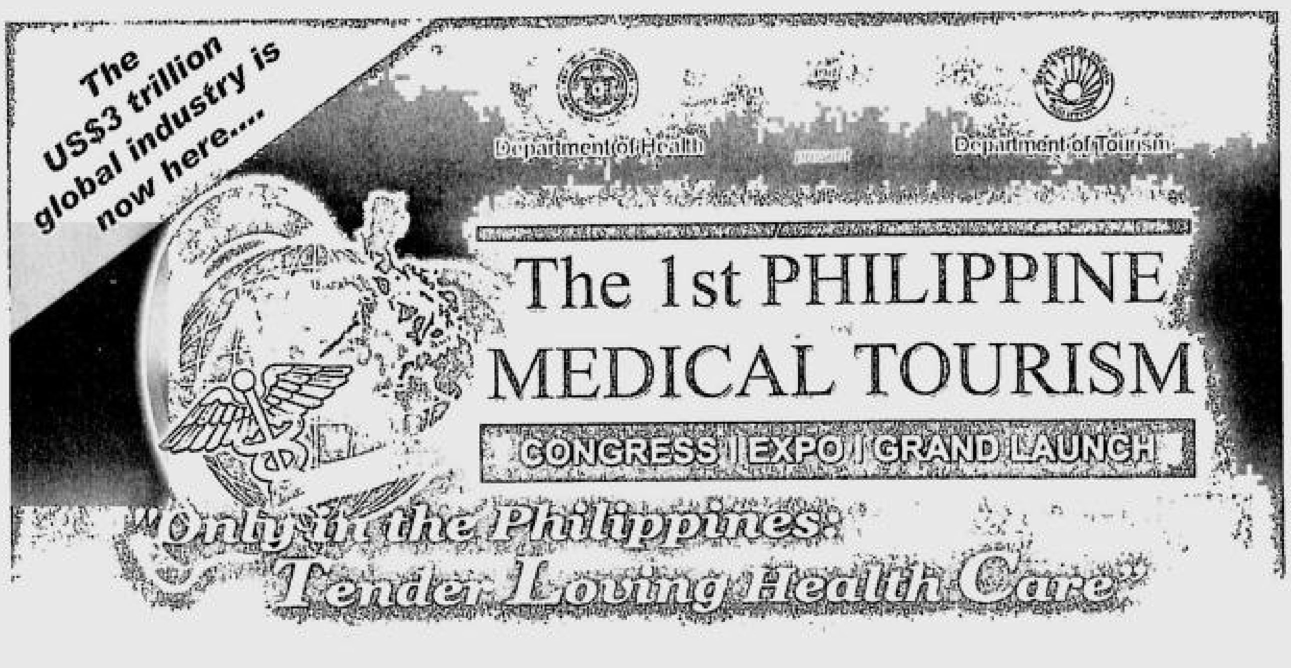
Antipest drive launched

THE DAYS of pests in Navotas are numbered. If the "Ubos Peste" campaign of Mayor Toby Tiangco proves successful, the municipality would soon be free of mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches and rats. Yesterday, Tiangco formally launched a townwide campaign to curb dengue and the spread of other diseases caused by pests. The campaign, which would run for 10 days and is open to all Navotas residents, offers cash prizes for the person who has killed the most number of rats, mosquitoes, flies and cockroaches. The first prize winner would receive P3,000, followed by P2,000 and P1,000 for the second and third prize winners, respectively. Tiangco said the contest aims to help residents develop the habit of cleaning their homes and surroundings. Participants should bring the pests they have gathered to the municipal health officer where an authorized representative from the town's accounting office would count them.

Nancy C. Carvajal

DID YOU KNOW

THE MANILA Science High School was founded officially on Oct. 1, 1963 by virtue of a resolution signed by then Mayor Antonio Villegas. F our years earlier, in November 1959, a class of 32 top-ranked students had already been formed as the nucleus of the future science high school. From a single-story building in Intramuros, "MaSci," as its graduates fondly refer to it, transferred in 1966 to its current location in Ermita. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*



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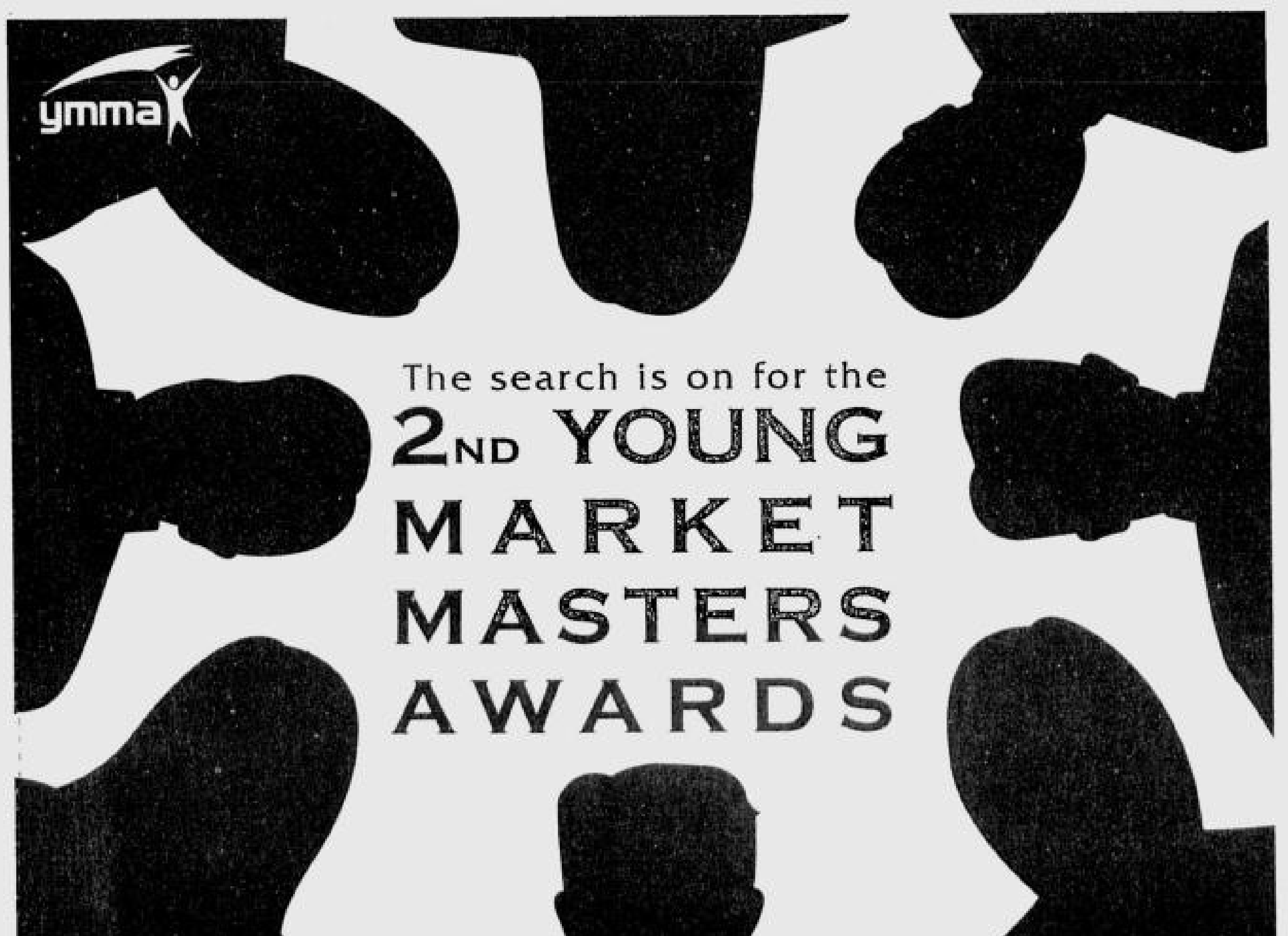

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Iran warns of retaliation if UN imposes sanctions

TEHRAN—PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHmadinejad has vowed to impose retaliatory sanctions on world powers if the UN Security Council carries out threats to penalize Iran over its nuclear program.

The warning came amid an intensifying global uproar Monday over North Korea's announcement of its first test of a nuclear weapon, a move which prompted Iran to declare it wanted a world free of atomic arms.

Ahmadinejad did not specify what kind of tit-for-tat measures might be imposed and Iran—OPEC's second largest producer—has always insisted it will not use oil as a weapon in the standoff.

"We will also impose sanctions on them," Ahmadinejad told reporters late Sunday in response to a question about a decision by the five Security Council permanent members plus Germany to discuss the prospect of sanctions.

"In the past 27 years they have always threatened us with sanctions and during this time they did everything they could," he said according to the student ISNA and semi-official ILNA news agencies.

"They do their thing and in return we will do ours." Oil prices again spiked above 60 dollars a barrel in London trade as market players expressed fears the nuclear weapon test by North Korea might stiffen Iran's resolve in its standoff with the West.

Tehran, which is refusing to heed Western demands it suspend uranium enrichment, insists its nuclear program is solely for peaceful energy needs, vehemently rejecting US allegations that it is seeking nuclear weapons.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson called for negotiations after the North Korean nuclear test but stopped short of issuing an explicit condemnation of Pyongyang's actions.

"Iran's position is clear and Iran on principle believes in a world free of nuclear weapons," Mohammad Ali Hosseini was quoted as saying by a state television anchor.

"Iran is hopeful that negotiations on North Korea's nuclear activities can go ahead in the interest of both North Korea and the international community," he added.

In a meeting late on Friday, representatives from Britain, China, Germany France, Russia and the United States agreed to discuss sanctions against Iran after it refused to heed a new deadline to halt uranium enrichment.

Considerable momentum towards drafting a sanctions resolution as early as this week appeared to have been generated by the meeting between top diplomats in London after weeks of talks with Iran failed to win a breakthrough. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

60 bodies found in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Authorities found the mutilated bodies of 60 men in Baghdad in the 24-hours ending Tuesday morning, likely the latest victims of the sectarian death squads that roam the capital. The bullet-riddled bodies all had their hands and feet bound and showed signs of torture—hallmarks of death-squad killings, police 1st Lt. Mohamed Khayon said. The victims ranged in age from between 20 to 50-years-old, he said. Their bodies had been dumped in several neighborhoods of the capital. Sectarian death squads have killed thousands in recent months and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is coming under increased pressure to find an end to the violence. *AP*

Murder clouds Putin visit

DRESDEN—Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to face awkward questions about the murder of a leading journalist during a two-day visit to Germany which he hopes will further Russian business interests in Europe. Putin flies into Dresden, the east German city where he served as a KGB agent in the 1980s. for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel that will include business deals and Berlin's concerns about the reliability of Russian oil and gas supplies. Merkel, a Russian speaker and the first chancellor from the ex-communist East Germany, is expected to raise western concerns about the contract-style killing at the weekend of Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian investigative journalist and prominent Putin critic. *Reuters*

Brother of Iraq's VP killed

BAGHDAD—Gunmen in camouflage uniforms killed the brother of Iraq's Sunni Arab Vice President Tareq al -Hashemi on Monday, drawing swift condemnation from across Iraq's political divide and senior US officials. Parliament's biggest Sunni political group blamed militias and warned it could jeopardize Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's plan to reconcile warring Shiite and Sunni sects. Lt. Gen. Amer al-Hashemi, a senior Defense Ministry adviser, was the third of Hashemi's siblings killed since April. Gunmen also killed his sister and another brother. *Reuters*

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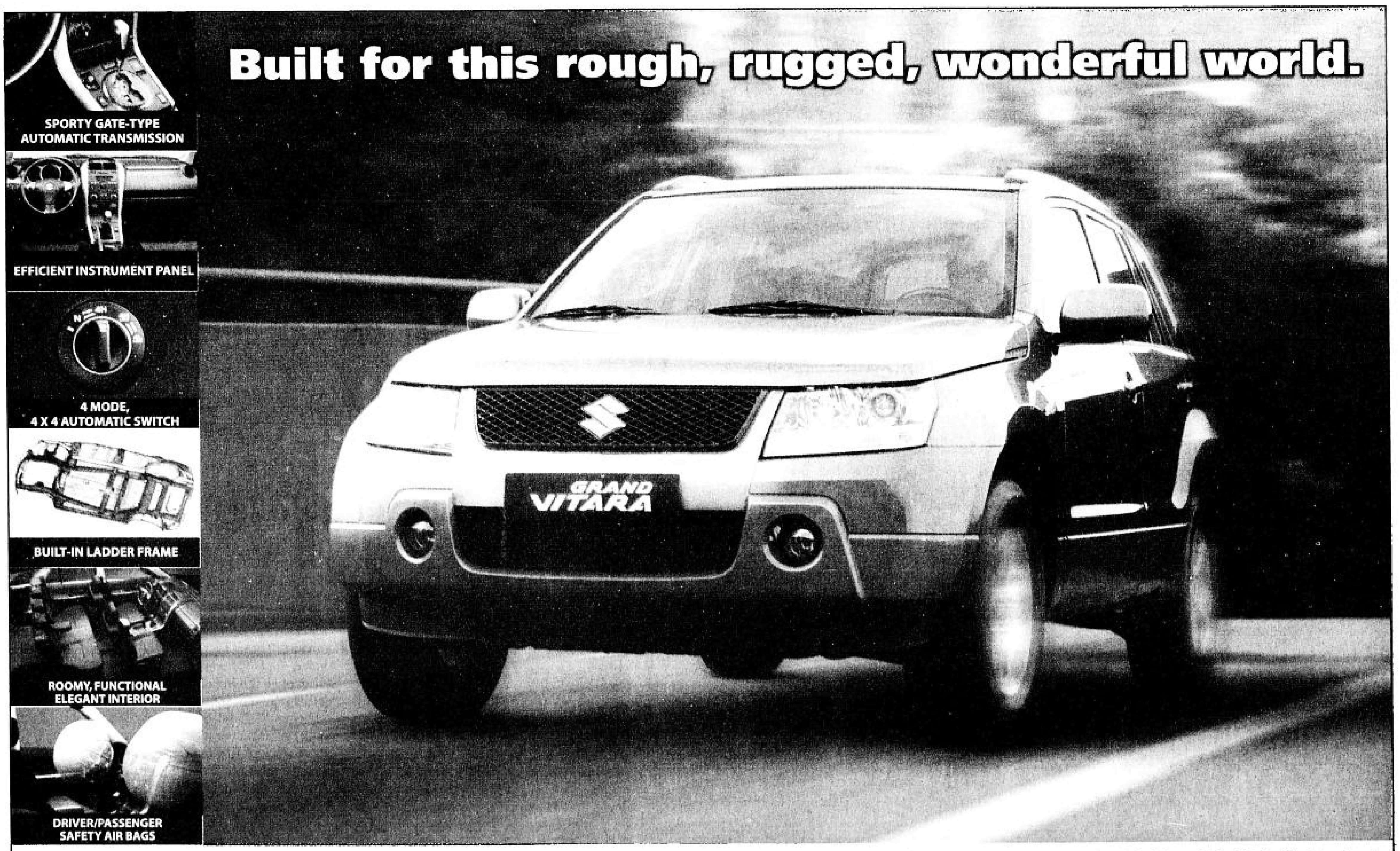
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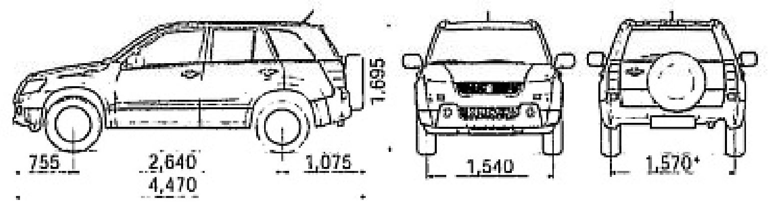

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

UN Security Council chooses Ban Ki-moon as next UN chief

BAN AFP

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council on Monday nominated South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon to succeed Secretary General Kofi Annan, in an announcement overshadowed by North Korea's first nuclear weapons test.

In Seoul, rather than expressing jubilation at his selection, Ban struck a somber note following the announcement by North Korea that it had succeeded in an underground atomic test.

"This should be a moment of joy. But instead, I stand here with a very heavy heart," Ban told a press conference.

"Despite the concerted warning from the international community, North Korea has gone ahead with a nuclear test," he said.

"With this act of provocation, North Korea has discarded its obligations under the Joint Statement adopted at the six-party talks in September last year and directly challenged UN Security Council Resolution 1695."

Japan's UN envoy Kenzo Oshima, UN council president for October, read out a statement that also urged North Korea "to refrain from further testing" and return to six-nation disarmament talks, while also vowing a "strong and swift" response.

Oshima called "a very serious matter" and "a threat to international peace and security in the region." Shortly after the 15-member Security Council formally endorsed Ban by acclamation, it returned to closed-door consultations to agree a response to North Korea's brazen defiance of a council resolution Friday urging it not to go ahead with the test.

Meanwhile, the man whom Ban is to replace, Secretary General Kofi Annan, also expressed deep concern over North Korea's nuclear weapons test, calling for stalled six-nation talks on Pyongyang's nuclear program to resume without delay.

Ban, a 62-year-old career diplomat, was the only remaining candidate for the coveted, high-profile job after six other contenders withdrew following the South Korean foreign minister's decisive victories in four informal straw polls in the council.

Under the UN charter, the 192-member General Assembly elects the secretary general upon the recommendation of the council.

Oshima said he asked the president of the General Assembly "for prompt steering of the appointment process." The assembly is likely to schedule a vote later this month.

Ban would then take office next January after Annan, a Ghanaian, steps down after having completed two five-year terms. *AFP*

Interim Thai PM pledges to lift martial law ASAP

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S INTERIM PRIME MINISTER on Tuesday said his government would lift martial law "as soon as we can," adding that repairing the country's image was a priority after last month's coup drew widespread international condemnation.

"We will lift martial law as soon as we can and when the situation is suitable," said Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, who was appointed by the military after the Sept. 19 coup that ousted Thaksin Shinawatra.

"I stress it will not be long."

Surayud made the comments to reporters during a break from his first Cabinet meeting, a day after the team was sworn in by King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The country's revered monarch urged the Cabinet on Monday to work with honesty as the country tries to move beyond a political crisis that led to the overthrow of ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and to help restore Thailand's international reputation.

During the Cabinet meeting, ministers raised the issue of lifting martial law with the Council for National Security, as the coup leaders call themselves.

"We value the freedom of people and civil liberties," Surayud said.

Western nations and human rights groups denounced the coup as a setback to democracy and have urged the current government to quickly lift restrictions imposed by the military, including curbs on press freedoms and limits on public gatherings and political assembly.

Martial law was imposed immediately after the coup.

The king acknowledged the criticism for the first time as he swore in the Cabinet Monday.

"Many people are saying bad things about Thai people," the king said. "Foreigners say that Thailand is not good. So we have to correct that. If we don't correct it, the reputation of our country will be bad."

The king also noted that many Thais were suffering from flooding that started with the rainy season in August and intensified recently in the aftermath of Typhoon Xangsane. At least 39 people have died from flood-related causes since August and 138,000 others have been sickened by waterborne diseases.

Surayud said the Cabinet will focus on both matters.

"The ministers will take the king's advice on correcting the image of the country in the eyes of foreigners," Surayud said, without elaborating.

He also said he was dispatching his new interior minister, Aree Wong-araya, to one of the hardest-hit areas by the flooding.

"The most urgent task is to help people suffering from flooding," he said, noting the provinces of Ang Thong and Singburi in central Thailand, where streets remained submerged under water.

Surayud's government is expected to stay in place for about a year until a new constitution is written and elections can be held.

The military ousted Thaksin while he was on an official trip to attend the UN General Assembly in New York. Thaksin was widely accused of corruption and abuse of power, and the military council that ousted him is investigating the allegations. He has not returned to Thailand since the coup, opting instead to stay at an apartment he owns in London. *AP*

Google buys YouTube for $1.65B

SAN FRANCISCO—WEB SEARCH leader Google Inc. said on Monday it agreed to acquire top video entertainment site YouTube Inc. for $1.65 billion in stock, the highest price yet paid for a consumer-generated media site.

The first deal to value one of the new generation of user-participation Web sites at more than $1 billion combines two of the most popular Internet brands: Google, synonymous with Web search and rapid innovation, and YouTube, a Silicon Valley upstart that has spearheaded the video-sharing craze.

YouTube, which grew in 19 months from a start-up in a garage to now serve 100 million videos daily, has drawn scrutiny from major media companies for copyrighted television and music videos that users post without owner consent.

While YouTube said on Monday it had signed a spate of distribution agreements with major record labels, analysts say Google could still be inviting lawsuits with this acquisition. *Reuters*

Polls show Democrats with big lead

WASHINGTON—Democratic candidates have a big edge on Republicans one month before elections to decide control of Congress, a flurry of new polls said on Monday, with ratings for President George W. Bush and Congress dropping after the Capitol Hill sex scandal.

A USA Today/Gallup poll gave Democrats a 23-point edge on Republicans in the battle for Congress, while a CNN poll gave Democrats a 21-point lead.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll found Democrats held a 54-41 percent lead in the congressional horse race among registered and likely voters, which ABC said was the biggest Democratic lead this close to election day in more than 20 years.

And a new CBS News/New York Times poll showed 79 percent of respondents thought Republican leaders were more concerned with politics than the well-being of the teenage congressional assistants who received lewd messages from former Republican Rep. Mark Foley of Florida.

Republicans, already battered by public doubts about the Iraq war and Bush's leadership, have been scrambling to contain the fallout from the unfolding sex scandal and keep it from sinking their chances on Nov. 7.

Democrats must pick up 15 House seats and six Senate seats to reclaim control of Congress.

Several recent polls have shown declining approval ratings for Republicans in the last week amid a torrent of questions about how the party's congressional leaders handled the Foley issue.

The CNN poll found 52 percent believed Republican House of Representatives Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois should resign, while the CBS poll found 46 percent favored his resignation.

The CBS poll found two-thirds of voters said the Foley scandal would make little difference in how they cast their ballots, but 21 percent said it would make them more likely to vote Democratic. *Reuters*

US professor wins Nobel Prize for Economics

PHELPS AP

NEW YORK—AMERICAN Edmund Phelps took the 2006 economics Nobel on Monday for work in the 1960s on the link between unemployment and inflation that economists say shapes the way central banks formulate monetary policy today.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the Columbia University professor won for challenging the assumption that policy-makers could cut unemployment in the long-term by stimulating demand. The award extended an American sweep of all the Nobels so far this year.

Phelps, 73, who owns neither a house nor a car, showed that cutting interest rates or taxes would give only a short-term boost to employment and create higher inflation down the road.

"In the case of inflation policy, I thought sending up the employment level at the cost of … higher inflation is a bit like eating your store of oats for the winter and facing future costs," Phelps told reporters. *Reuters*

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(Office of the President)
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PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q.C., Philippines P.O. Box 141

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1 The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project: Approved Budget for the Contract Delivery Period	(a) Various Medicines for Clinic Use P39,905,280.00 Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Purchase Order (PO)
Name of Project: Approved Budget for the Contract Delivery Period	(b) Various Medical/Dental/Laboratory Supplies, Materials and Reagents for Clinic Use P2,579,664.62 Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Purchase Order (PO)
Name of Project: Approved Budget for the Contract Delivery Period	(c) 385 Boxes of Various Medicines for Medical Missions P1,980,000.00 Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Purchase Order (PO)
Name of Project: Approved Budget for the Contract Delivery Period	(d) 700 Boxes of Various Medicines for Medical Donations Program/Free Clinics P3,600,000.00 Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the Purchase Order (PO)

2. Prospective bidder should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

4. The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
ITEM A: VARIOUS MEDICINES FOR CLINIC USE	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 10-16, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	10.00 AM of October 23, 2006 Executive Lounge, 4/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 6, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10.30 AM of November 6, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 7-13, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 14-20, 2006
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	November 21-27, 2006
ITEM B: VARIOUS MEDICAL/DENTAL/LABORATORY SUPPLIES, MATERIALS & REAGENTS FOR CLINIC USE	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 12-18, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM of October 25, 2006 Executive Lounge, 4/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 8, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:30 AM of November 8, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 9-15, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 16-22, 2006
7. Notice of Award	November 23-29, 2006
ITEM C: 385 BOXES OF VARIOUS MEDICINES FOR MEDICAL MISSIONS	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 13-19, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM of November 7, 2006 Executive Lounge, 4/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 20, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10.30 AM of November 20, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 21-27, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 28-December 4, 2006
7. Notice of Award	December 5-11, 2006
ITEM D: 700 BOXES OF VARIOUS MEDICINES FOR MEDICAL DONATIONS PROGRAM/FREE CLINICS	
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 16-23, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM of November 7, 2006 Executive Lounge, 4/F Main Building
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	10:00 AM of November 21, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	10:30 AM of November 21, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	November 22-28, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	November 29-December 5, 2006
7. Notice of Award	December 6-12, 2006

5. Bid Documents for each project will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per project to the PCSO Treasury Department.

6. All Bids must be delivered at the Office of the General Manager, Hon. Rosario C. Uriarte located at 3rd Floor Main Building, PCSO Complex E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on or before the deadline for submission.

7. The PCSO assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO C. URIARTE
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2006)

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WHAT'S INSIDE

SBC Red Lions tame NU Bulldogs/A24

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Express next for hot Kings

UNLESS BARANGAY GINEBRA DELIBERately tanks games or pulls punches, the Kings may leave Jong Uichico with no other option but to state the obvious.

While anyone with the slightest trace of basketball knowledge would label Ginebra a powerhouse squad, Uichico has constantly begged to disagree, something he'll run out of reason to do if the Kings fashion out a third straight victory with the same ease and brutality that they did in the first two games.

Air21 will be the next team to get an up close and personal look at the strengths of Barangay Ginebra, which has won its first two games by an average margin of 26 points, capped by an 86-67 mangling of defending champion Purefoods on Saturday in Dumaguete.

Still, the reserved and taciturn former San Miguel coach veered away from accepting the label of invincibility being tagged on his Kings by citing factors that tried to hide how easy their first two outings have been.

"Welcoat is a young team that is still feeling its way around the league," Uichico had said, moments after a 33-point rout of the young and inexperienced Dragons in the inaugurals Sunday last week.

"Purefoods is still not in the form that won it a championship the last time out," was what he said of the out-of-town game conquest of the Chunkee Giants five nights ago. "It still does not tell us the true strength of this (Ginebra) team."

A victory in the 7:20 p.m. contest would give the Kings the solo elimination round lead, and if it happens to be a blowout yet again, it would be interesting to note what reason the multi-titled coach would be harping next.

Meanwhile, a rejuvenated Sta. Lucia squad shoots for a second straight win earlier, clashing with a new look San Miguel squad in the 4:35 p.m. game.

Musong R. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
Ginebra	2	0
Talk 'N Text	2	0
Red Bull	2	0
Sta. Lucia	1	0
Welcoat	1	1
Alaska	1	2
San Miguel	0	1
Air21	0	1
Purefoods	0	2
Coca-Cola	0	2

Games Today (*Araneta Coliseum*)

4:35 p.m.—San Miguel vs. Sta. Lucia

7:20 p.m.—Air21 vs. Barangay Ginebra

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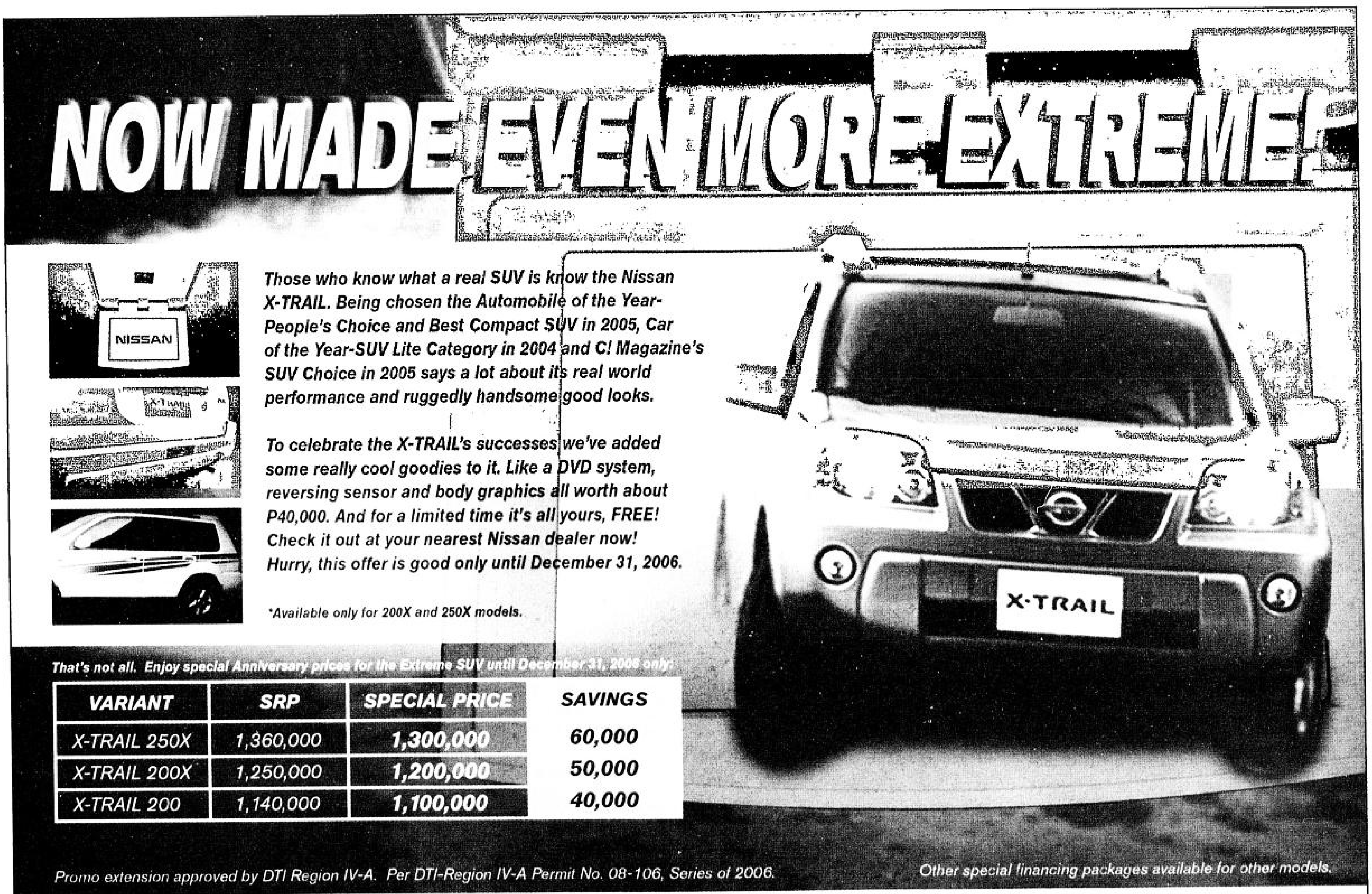

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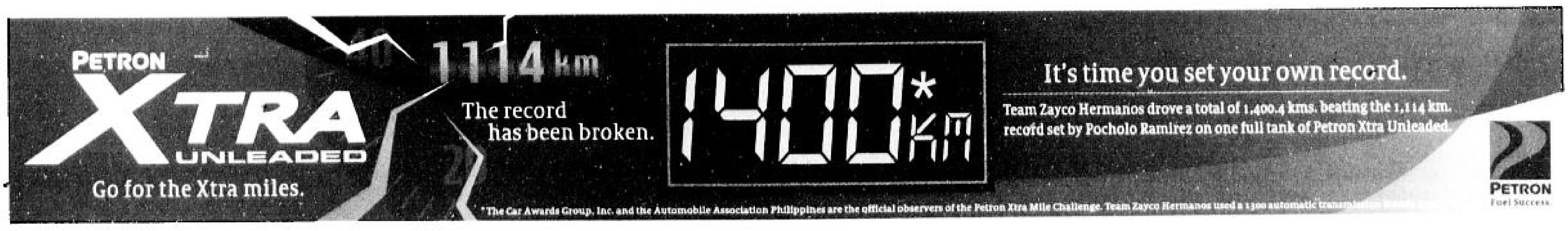

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*The Car Awards Group, Inc. and the Automobile Association Philippines are the official observers of the Petron Xtra Mile Challenge. Team Zayco Hermanos used a 1300 automatic

Jinggoy to take Joey's place; Lim leaves SBP

FROM A FORMER SENATOR TO AN INCUMBENT senator.

This will be the change in leadership of the Basketball Association of the Philippines as it holds its national congress at the Aloha Hotel today.

A reliable source said yesterday Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is going to be elected as the next BAP president, replacing former senator Joey Lina, who resigned Monday after failing in his effort to unify the factions of local basketball by way of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

Senator Estrada, a longtime member of the BAP who as San Juan mayor supported the San Juan Inter-School Basketball League and the Philippine women's team, is expected to be present in the national congress.

Once elected, Senator Estrada will take the place of Lina in the three-man SBP panel, headed by business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, tasked by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) to steer the SBP toward Philippine Olympic Committee recognition. The other panel member is Pilipinas Basketball president Bernie Atienza.

The same source said there could be new developments if Senator Estrada, who also co-owned the San Juan Knights in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association, doesn't show up in the congress.

Meanwhile, controversial BAP secretary general Graham Lim yesterday tendered his resignation from the SBP board.

Lim made the decision a day after Lina resigned from the BAP to allow somebody acceptable to the POC to take over his place in the three-man panel.

"For all of its ups and downs, triumphs and shortcomings, the BAP was willing to sacrifice its 70-year-old tradition to give way to the higher cause of bringing basketball back to life," said Lim. "But it doesn't end with the willingness. Some sacrifices have to be made, and this is one of them," wrote Lim in his resignation letter to Pangilinan.

Lim, who had to endure detention at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan from March 25-April 13 due to a deportation case filed again him, said his genuine love for basketball has prompted him to arrive at the decision.

"More than half my life has been devoted to basketball," wrote Lim. "From a varsity player of my high school team, to organizer of several Fil-Chinese leagues and as official of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, I have been a true servant of the game we all love. *Roy Luarca*

LIM

What they say

Chino Trinidad, PBL commissioner

"*GUSTO LANG NG BAP* FOR THE UNITY EFforts among basketball leaders not to continue. Then he throws the blame on the POC, which had nothing to do with the talks."

"This resignation only showed that this organization (BAP) has no stability. Sarcastic *man pakinggan*, but with his resignation, we can finally move."

"*Sayang talaga, kumbaga kasi* stamp *na lang na OK tapos na ang usapan, eh. Pangalawang beses na n'yang (Lina) ginawa ito.* Remember what he did with the previous MOU (Memorandum of Agreement)? *Pirma na lang nya sana.*"

"This is a clear grandstanding what Mr. Lina did. *Pero kung akala ng mga tao sa BAP na hindi matutuloy ang* unity efforts, *nagkakamali sila. Dapat ngayon mas magpursige. Kasi alam na ng tao kung ano ang totoo.*"

* * *

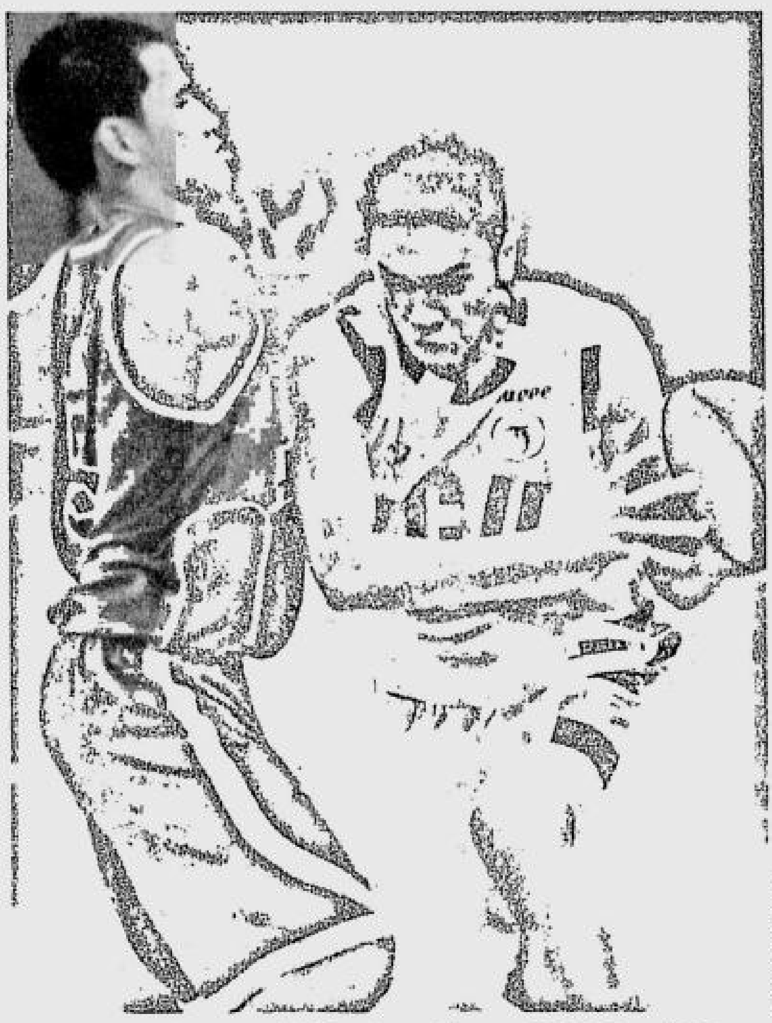
Mark Joseph, POC deputy secretary general

"POC has never received any communication from SBP, much less have anything to do with the supposed outcome of the election."

* * *

Buddy Andrada, vice chair, POC membership committee

"IN all my 20 years as a member of the POC, we have never singled out any person. Maybe ex-senator Lina thinks that he is that important to the POC that he should be singled out. But the truth is, he wasn't. Our membership rules apply equally to all applicants." *June Navarro*


ROMY HOMILLADA

PCU' s Leimar Navarro (right) tries to slip past AMA's Arnold Galang.

SBC Red Lions tame Bulldogs

By Jasmine W. Payo

ANOTHER CHAMPION NEARLY FELL AS the San Beda Lions struggled to forge a 75-72 victory over wildcard bet National Bulldogs in the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the San Beda gym.

Yousif Aljamal topscored with 12 points, including the game-clinching lay-up that broke the game's final deadlock and settled the final count with 50.7 seconds remaining.

With the victory, the NCAA champions completed the eight-team quarterfinal cast of the knockout-style tournament. UAAP titlist Santo Tomas Tigers surprisingly bowed out of the competition after losing to the Jose Rizal Bombers, 65-63, last Monday.

The Lions had to do without Sam Ekwe, the NCAA rookie Most Valuable Player who rode the bench due to a hyper-extended right knee.

But aside from the absence of the Nigerian import, coach Koy Banal admits that the Lions were off-form.

"Everybody's still kind of rusty," he said. "I hope we'll get better everyday. What we have achieved in the NCAA, we have to set aside and just focus on the task at hand."

Earlier, the Philippine Christian Dolphins also clinched a quarterfinal berth after repulsing the Ama Computer Titans, 95-88.

Despite having only a day of practice, the Dolphins got a sensational performance from Jason Castro, who scattered 21 points, seven rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

The scores:

Second Game

SAN BEDA 75—Aljamal 12, Evangelista 11, Angeles 10, Maggay 10, Gamalinda 8, Taganas 7, Menor 7, Escobal 6, Tecson 3, Antonio 0.

NU 72—Fernandez 18, Lingao-Lingao 14, Asoro 12, Garcia 7, Jahnke 6, Catamora 5, Salvado 5, Malagueño 3, Dela Cruz 2, Luy 0, Salamat 0

Quarters: 32-24, 42-41, 62-61, 75-72

PBL rookie camp starts

A SLAM DUNK CHAMP AND A UAAP STAR OUT to prove a point lead a slew of exciting players that will show their stuff in today's PBL Rookie Camp at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Bonbon Custodio, who was inexplicably benched by the coaching staff of the UE Warriors in their Final Four series with the UST Tigers, is one among the more than 70 players eager to strut their wares in the country's premier amateur league.

This early, Custodio, who normed close to 18 points for the Warriors, is expected to bloom as one of the league's marquee players following the exit of stars Arwind Santos, LA Tenorio, Joseph Yeo, Gabby Espinas and Kelly Williams.

"He's one of the promising players in the amateur ranks these days," said Commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Elmer Espiritu, another UE player who gained instant fame after edging out Ateneo's JC Intal in the slam dunk contest of the Bantay Bata 163 UAAP vs NCAA Showdown last Saturday, is also joining the camp.

SPORTSWATCH

GCAP derby at SJC

THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (GCAP) 5-stag derby series returns at San Juan Coliseum today with 75 matches on tap. Sagupaan Complexor 3000 sponsors the event which will start at 4 p.m. With the "red flag and open bet" format to be adopted anew, aficionados can again heart-pounding matches from start to finish, said GCAP founder Patrick Antonio. Aside from Antonio, also set to field their battlestags are Gerry Ramos, Rudy Albano, Louie Cua, Boy de Roca, Pol Estrellado, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Benjie Lim, Eric dela Rosa, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Tony Lasala, Reps. Butch Pichay and Jing Paras, Butch Nunez, Ricky Valencia, Rey Briones and Mayor Buddy Dunca.

Winning Time derby

MAKATI COLISEUM'S SUPER 5-STAG DERBY FIRES off at 4 p.m. today with 75 fights lined up and with B-Meg Derby Ace as main backer. Participants include former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Gov. Ito Ynares, Ric de Guzman, former Sen. Ramon Revilla, Efren Canlas, Madlambayan Brothers, Joel Fernando, Super Pacman group, Bobby Doromal, Butchoy Olano, Lito Roque, J. Diokno, Boy Marzo, Rainier Kau, Arman Santos, Boy Javier and Emil Chua. The event will be hosted by the Winning Time Jerby group and assisted by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.

Ozamiz rips Montana

OZAMIZ CITY—REIGNING TITLIST OZAMIZ Cotta dropped 29 points while holding Montana Pawnshop-Davao to 11 in the fourth quarter to tally a runaway 97-71 victory Sunday in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Gov. Angel Medina gym here.

Powered by Bruce Dacia, Marlon Basco and new recruit Lou Gatumbato, the Cotta Shrine cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog turned a tight contest into a rout.

It was the second win in four games for Ozamiz, putting the defending champion in a tie for third place, with idle North Cotabato.

Businessman Armando Quibod's Jewelers remained in the cellar with a 0-3 card in the tourney sponsored by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

"Montana is a strong team," said Ozamiz coach Albert Calvo. "It kept on coming back. It's good that the veterans (in our team) stepped up in the endgame."

Dacia led Ozamiz's scoring with 21 points on 8-for-14 shooting. He also finished with four rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Gatumbato, a former Pagadian stalwart, scored 14 points, including two 3-pointers, and issued three assists.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 97—Dacia 21, Basco 16, Gatumbato 14, Bansil 10, Alberto 8, Cavan 8, Sampilo 5, Nicdao 4, Liangco 3, Lapera 2, Guerrero 2, Libatog 2, Alvarado 2, Bat-og 0

MONTANA DAVAO 71—Ayson 16, Daja 9, Bajenting 9, Dawal 8, Gonzaga 8, Panerio 6, Abanes 5, Jetico 4, Almocha 4, Bonifacio 2, Quibod 0, Atablaco 0

Quarters: 19-19, 45-38, 68-60, 97-71

Ardina spearheads RP World Am bid

YOUTHFUL SENSATION DOTTIE Ardina will banner the Philippines' campaign in this year's World Amateur Team Championships slated Oct. 18-21 for the ladies and Oct. 26-29 for the men's competition in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Dottie Ardina, who is turning 13 this December, is expected to draw attention from the competing field owing to her string of feats, including the Junior World crown in the 11-12 division last July and just recently the Hong Kong Open title.

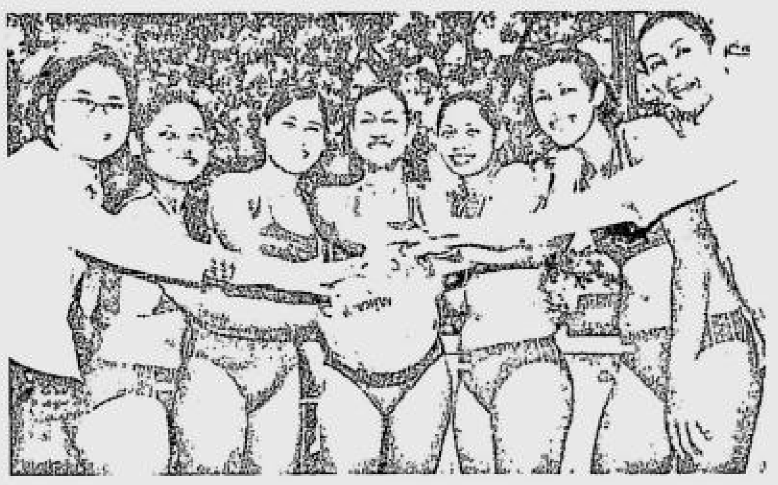
Ardina joins fellow Junior World champion Cyna Rodriguez and reigning Philippine Ladies Open titlist Debbie de Villa in the RP ladies squad out to improve the joint 18th place finish by the team of Jayvie Agojo, Lora Roberto and Anya Tanpinco in Puerto Rico in 2004.

Marvin Dumandan, winner of four events this year, including the North County Orange Amateur crown in California, heads the men's team composed of internationalist Jay Bayron and former Singapore Am Open champion and Puerto Rico veteran Michael Bibat.

Petron taekwondo meet set Oct. 15

YOUTHFUL TAEKWONDO JINS TAKE THE SPOT light Oct. 15, with the staging of the 2006 Petron national age group championships at the Rizal Memorial coliseum on P. Ocampo Sr. (Vito Cruz) St. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert Aventajado expects around 1,000 athletes to vie for honors in four divisions, namely mid-junior (men and women aged 13 to 14) and grade school (boys and girls 12 years old and below). Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong says participants will come from PTA affiliated chapters and branches in Metro Manila and the provinces. The event is expected to show the development and progress of taekwondo, especially in the grassroots level. "We expect to tap future national and international competitors from the big field of participants," said Hong.

The tourney is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Petron, Milo and Accel.



BEACH VOLLEYBALL: The 2006 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament comes to an exciting finale on Oct. 20 and 21 at the KidzWorld Country Club in Governor's Drive, San Agustin 1, Dasmarinas, Cavite. Event organizer Tisha Abundo (right) and KidzWorld marketing executive Desiree Anne Lawas with players Jennifer and Jeneveve Lanuevo, Diana Rose Distajo and Sheryl and Michele Laborte. REM ZAMORA

Young aces closing gap

THE COUNTRY'S TOP CUE MASTERS ARE no spring chickens: Jose "Amang" Parica is 56, Efren "Bata" Reyes, 52, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 46, and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, 49.

But there's no cause for alarm. According to local billiards patron Ceferino "Perry" Mariano, younger stars are emerging, be ready to take over their place in the international pool arena.

"The young guns are catching up very fast," said Mariano. "They are closing the 20 years gap of the veterans and the young cue masters in barely one year of international exposure."

ORCOLLO

Mariano is referring to new pool talents Dennis Orcollo, 27, fresh from winning the World Pool Leaque in Warsaw, Poland; Alex Pagulayan, 27, the 2004 World Pool champion and 2005 US Open winner; Marlon Manalo, 29, 2005 World Pool semi-finalist.

Orcollo, one of Mariano's top players from Bugsy's billiard promotion, won seven titles in US the pool circuit alone and placed third in the 2006 North American International Pool Tour (IPT) 8-ball shoot-out last July in Las Vegas, Nevada. *Marlon Bernardino*

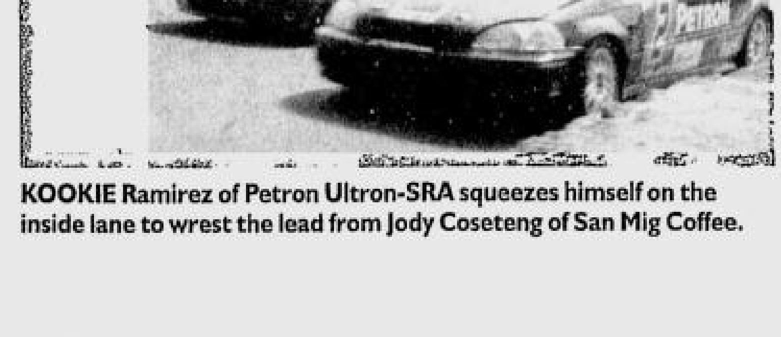
Magaway, 5 other RP bets advance

PAUL NICOLE MAGAWAY REPULSED Juan Gabriel Peña, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-4, yesterday to lead six other Filipinos into the second round of the Asian 14-Under Series at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center outdoor courts in Pasig City.

Magaway set up a meeting against compatriot and top seed Francis Casey Alcantara, who had a first-round bye together with No. 2 Korean Kim Ki-Hoon, No. 3 Thai Nuttorn Tanchainant and No. 4 Korean Noh Sang-Woo.

Other Filipino winners were Roman Floreza over Leander Lazaro, 2-6, 6-4, 6-5 (ret.), Akio Sy over Simon Samaniego, 6-2, 6-4, Marco Suntay over Enrique Ferrer, 6-0, 6-1, Jose Lorenzo Ferrer over American Reed Chamberlain, 6-0, 6-0, Kim Ivor Saraza over Japanese Tsutomo Fukushima, 6-0, 6-1, and Kyle Cordero over Mauro Bengzon, 6-0, 6-1.

Also advancing in this tournament sponsored by the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. were Japanese Rikuto Furuta, 6-0, 6-0, Korean Jeong Joo-Wook, 6-0, 6-2, Japanese Takamasa Takizawa, 0-6, 7-5, 6-1, Korean Yoon Sun-Hong, 6-0, 6-0, and Indonesian Rayadi Surya, 6-0, 6-0.



KOOKIE Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA squeezes himself on the inside lane to wrest the lead from Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee.

Coseteng, Maningding win

SUBIC—DEFENDING CHAMPION JODY COSETENG of San Mig Coffee and Uly Maningding of Explorer swept their respective divisions in the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships last Sunday at the Subic International Raceway here.

Coseteng bested arch rival Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA to rule both races in the Group 1 Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Maningding pulled away early and won the Group 3 Petron Blaze National Production Car Championship.

Coseteng had a tough time against Ramirez who passed him twice at the first turn, the last with five laps to go.

But fading brake pads and sliding tires spoiled Ramirez's hopes as Coseteng regained the top spot at the hairpin and closed the doors on the inside lane en route to his third straight sweep.

Don Pastor of BioActive Team TEC l wound up third in both races.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Bom's Cat/Sharp And Deadly (2), Swiss Alps (6), Sutter Time (4), Tucker Pride (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (3), Men Of Honor (4), King Aljhun (5), War General (9), Bullish Dream (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Defiant (5), Music N'Magic (8), Bachelor Of Arts (4), Pert And Pretty/Yapee Yoyoh (1)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Shifty (6), Shee Boom (9), Nico's Incharge (7), War Hero (4), Dulce My Love (3)
Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Noble Principality (4), Close Account (8), Kusang Loob (7), Primo Supremo (5), Vinla's Pride (1) Ocean Dignity/Long Road (10)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bom's Bom's (8), Ocean Cookie (3), Audrey's Temper (4), Fernan Ikaw Pa Rin (5), Wings To Fly (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Astimegoesby (7), Brute Force (6), Madel Line (8), Reign Of Fire (4)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Perky Perp/Red Diamond (9), Carmelita (6), Clear Stone (1), Virgin Island (10), Friendly Fire (11), Smiling Jaeda (13)

Two RP jins come out of retirement

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO IS pulling two of its crack jins out of retirement in a determined bid to win its first Asian Games gold in Doha.

Olympian Donald Geisler, the 1998 Bangkok Asiad silver winner, will skipper the 16-man RP team in the December Games, along with fellow multiple Southeast Asian Games gold winner Dax Morfe, according to national head coach Stephen Fernandez.

Geisler, 27, is expected to make his swan song in the Asian Games, steering a youthful lineup made up of national champions who had their first big international debut in last year's Southeast Asian Games.

Fernandez refused to reveal the entire lineup yet.

Aside from 28-year-old Morfe, the team is expected to have Seag gold winner and 2002 Asiad bronze medalist Tshomlee Go.

The country brought home five bronzes during the 2002 Busan Asiad through Go, Veronica Domingo, Dindo Simpao, Margie Bonifacio and Dahleen Cordero.

Although always counted upon to win golds for the country, the Philippines has yet to bring home the top prize in the Asian Games. The closest it got was in 1998 with Geisler and in 1994 Hiroshima with Bobby Vargas.

"This is the Olympics of Asia and all the best jins are seeing action especially with the Beijing Games around the corner," Fernandez, himself a former Olympian, told the INQUIRER.

Four teams start race for World Series slots

NEW YORK—THE HUNGRY Tigers travel to Oakland seeking another taste of success while the Mets revel in having the Big Apple spotlight to themselves against the Cardinals in baseball's league championship series this week.

Baseball's marathon season is down to four teams with the American League's Detroit Tigers and Oakland Athletics, and National League New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals vying to win their respective playoffs to reach the World Series.

The three underdogs and injury-riddled favorite Mets came through the best-of-five division playoffs after a six-month season and now must prove their mettle in a best-of-seven format.

The Tigers, who three seasons ago set an AL record with 119 losses, drenched themselves and their fans in champagne on Saturday after vanquishing the favored New York Yankees in the first round. Pitching hero Kenny Rogers sprayed bubbly on fans from the top of the Tigers dugout during a wild celebration.

Oakland, the small-market team who reached the playoffs four years in a row from 2000 without getting past the first round, toppled the Minnesota Twins to earn the right to host the Tigers in their series opener on Tuesday.

St Louis, who went into a near-disastrous tailspin at the end of the regular season, revived behind ace starter Chris Carpenter and prodigious slugger Albert Pujols to defeat the San Diego Padres in four games.

New York, hampered by injuries to frontline starters Pedro Martinez and Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez, used a hard-hitting lineup and bullpen depth to sweep the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Mets, whose last World Series appearance was a losing effort against the Yanks in the 2000 "Subway Series," will solo on New York's October baseball stage the rest of the way, hosting their series opener Wednesday against the Cards.

Starting pitching is the strong suit of the American League hopefuls, while offensive punch is the best weapon among the National League teams remaining.

Detroit, 90-game losers in the two previous seasons before their renaissance this year under manager Jim Leyland, feature hard-throwing young right-handers Justin Verlander, 21, and Jeremy Bonderman, 23, and lefties Nate Robertson and Rogers. *Reuters*

Thank God, Friday's got big football goals

By Francis Ochoa

THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY at the Ateneo football field as dusk scattered itself across Sunday's late afternoon skies like a glob of black ink dropped into a glass of water.

The pitch, watered by a steady midday drizzle just hours before, was bathed in the scent of mud and crushed grass as Japanese students played out the final moments of a pickup football game. A girl in casual white shorts and a red V-neck spaghetti-strap top cloaked in a black jacket may have seemed completely out of place in the entire scene.

But only for a while.

When Andrea "Friday" Camaclang kicked off her sandals and deftly juggled a soccer ball with her feet, it was clear she belonged here. And when she sent the ball sailing to the back corner of a partially ripped net, everybody knew this was her playground.

Including the students, who stopped to watch her perform and applauded noisily afterwards.

"I really love soccer. I've loved it since I was a kid," said Friday.

"She's a soccer freak," said Honey Cruz, a close friend of the 29-year-old former national player.

"When I was young, I always felt different because I couldn't relate to girls," said Friday. "So I always played with the boys."

This year, though, she's going to enjoy playing with the girls. The big girls.

Friday is set to become the first female Filipino to play in the women's English Premier League. And she won't just dress up for Brighton and Hove, the team that opened the big-league door for her.

Brighton and Hove manager Nici Rice is making her the Seagulls' starting center-midfielder.

"I'm actually going to be an attacking type of midfielder," beamed Friday. For an idea as to how sensitive the position is, think Real Madrid's David Beckham, Manchester U's Ryan Giggs and the French national team's Zinedine Zidane.

And in this stint, which Friday considers to be her last run at soccer before she calls it quits, scoring goals won't mean just firing shots into open nets. A goal for her is something with a bigger sense of purpose.

"[Brighton and Hove] can't pay me so we've come up with this kind of x-deal where they'll train me to develop soccer here," revealed Friday. So even if she isn't wearing the colors of the national squad, she'll be playing for the country on an even bigger stage.

"I'll be getting a lot of ties with the English [Football Association]," she said. "Plus, my manager is a football development officer for the English FA. They'll hook us up with qualified coaches who can conduct tryouts with no biases [like] what school you came from and stuff like that."

To understand why Friday would fit such a huge cause into her life, one only needs to look at her background and grasp the fact that frustration often drives her to excel.

As a perky five-year-old, the former University of the Philippines star would often be left pouting at the sidelines while watching dad Miguel, a standout for the E. Razon Football Squad before, play with her brother on the field. She'd sulk and kick soccer balls into walls and juggle them a lot until she noticed she could do it better than most boys.

As a high schooler at Colegio de San Agustin, she'd get frustrated at the pace of girls' football that she'd play with the boys—wearing skirt and leather shoes.

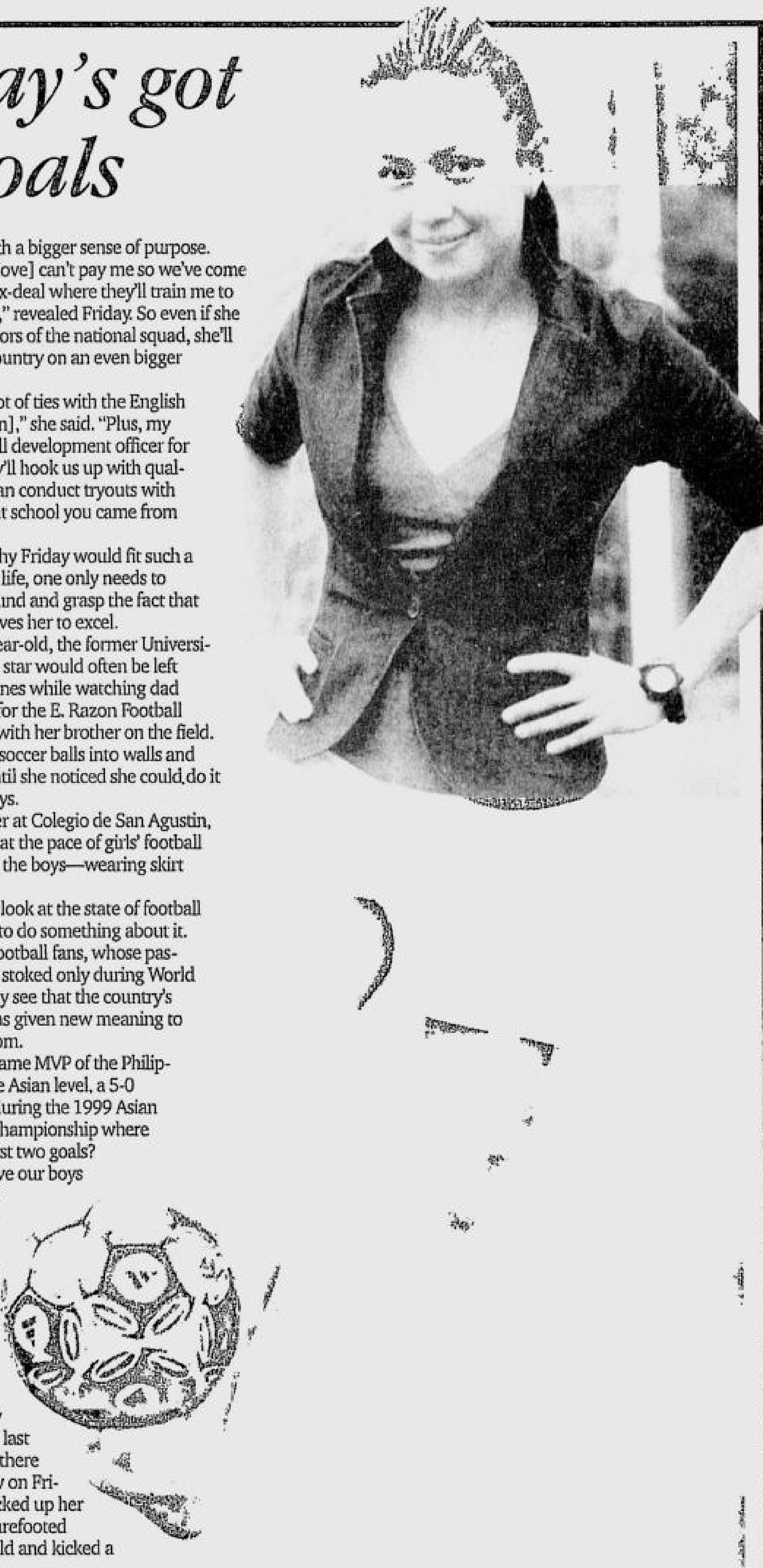
Now, she takes a look at the state of football and knows she has to do something about it. Even quadrennial football fans, whose passion for the game is stoked only during World Cup years, can easily see that the country's football program has given new meaning to the word rock-bottom.

What more the game MVP of the Philippines' first win in the Asian level, a 5-0 drubbing of Nepal during the 1999 Asian Women's Football Championship where Friday scored the first two goals?

"I just want to give our boys and girls a chance," said Friday. "Hopefully, if I do good [in the English Premier League], I will open doors for the country. Hopefully, it will be easy for us to play anywhere."

Even as the early evening sucked the last light out of the sky, there was a hint of a glow on Friday's face as she picked up her sandals, trudged barefooted across the soggy field and kicked a ball along the way.

One day, she hopes, this won't be a playground of her own, but of other perky little girls who dream of running around manicured pitches even while wearing skirts and leather shoes.



FRIDAY Camaclang's all set for her European stint. The former national player has had a taste of big-time soccer before when she starred for the Los Angeles Valley College in the United States. RYAN LIM

'Don't stop dreaming,' —PSC chair

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HEART OF THE Filipino athlete.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Ramirez yesterday made that plea in reaction to the INQUIRER special report which forecast the country as not having a slightest chance of winning its first gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"We should not stop dreaming. Hope and vision is important for us to get the gold," said the PSC chief. "If we stop dreaming and hoping, then what's the use of the PSC and the POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) and all these preparations for the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games.

"Let's just go back to the grassroots and just play *dama* in the streets."

Ramirez was referring to series that came out this week that quoted the dreary prediction to former Project: Gintong Alay director Michael Keon.

He also rued the present setup in RP sports where the POC and the PSC—powerful bodies that run sports affairs in the country—are held by two different persons.

"Before, some sports officials have the direct linkage with Malacañang," said Ramirez, alluding to Keon, a nephew of former president Ferdinand Marcos. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Top NBA pick good enough in first outing

WASHINGTON—OUT AT THE TOP OF THE three-point arc, Andrea Bargnani grabbed a loose ball and immediately rose to take his first shot as an NBA player.

The ball went in, part of the top overall draft pick's eight points and four rebounds in 13½ minutes in the Toronto Raptors' 93-88 exhibition victory over the Washington Wizards on Monday.

The 7-foot, 250-pound Italian—the first European ever taken No. 1—entered as a substitute about 5½ minutes into the game and also showed some rough edges: He picked up three personal fouls within four minutes.

"I need to improve the same things I did in Italy," Bargnani said. "If I don't do well on defense, I won't be on the floor."

Bargnani (Bar-NYAH-nee) finished 3-of-6 from the field, including 2-for-2 on 3s. He finished with five fouls.

"That's just all young guys," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said.

Still, Bargnani did draw offensive fouls from Wizards centers Brendan Haywood and Etan Thomas, both times with a bit of an exaggerated lean backward—a veteran move by Bargnani, who turns 21 this month. *AP*

It's war, not a chess match, for Pacquiao

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FOR A START, IT SHOULD BE NOTED here that Manny Pacquiao plays a sharp game of chess.

We've got a brainy boxing god here.

That said, it should be added that there's every reason to believe Manny Pacquiao will do and try everything to ensure victory in his third encounter with Erik Morales.

Pacquiao has been training longer and harder (than he had done in his second fight with Morales) for his third "Grand Finale" clash with his Mexican rival.

Pacquiao will not only be sharper and stronger—he will also be wiser.

There definitely will be no repeat of the blind bull that got cut, bloodied and was mauled by Morales in their first fight.

After Pacquiao abandoned that tight, balled-up style of March 2005, he metamorphosed into a sharp striker—an amazing combine of brawn and brains—to knock out Morales last January.

***

For the record, Morales has again decided to train up high in Mexico's Otami Mountains.

But Pacquiao won't be denied as he regularly jogs and scales the taxing Griffith Heights that snake over and around the Hollywood area, site of his Wild Card training camp.

Despite his fabulous regimen, there's however no reason to fear Pacquiao might suffer from burnout.

If there's something to be wary about it's not conditioning; rather it's this possibility that he could also start treating his next bout with Morales like a chess match.

No kidding. This possibility appealed to us based on the report by the Star's Quinito Henson wherein Pacquiao was quoted as saying "brains will decide his rubber match with Morales."

***

The story itself is great, something to rouse fans and keep us wondering.

Didn't Pacquiao use enough brains in his last encounter in order to succeed?

Should he resort to even higher intellection for his next big fight?

Says the exclusive report: "According to Pacquiao, he has got 20 new moves to unravel in the Grand Finale."

The pronouncement was rather amusing but, at least, it was not Pacman himself, but Pacquiao marketing man Eric Pineda, who divulged the plot.

It was not very clear whether there would be a Queen's Gambit or Sicilian Defense in the ring repertoire.

***

But we could only pray those "20 new moves" won't melt like the promised Manila Ice that fizzled out in Pacquiao-Morales 1.

The truth is that thinking too much during a fight—which could result into undue caution—is bound to ruin Pacquiao's momentum and cramp his style.

It doesn't always pay for a boxer to be too brainy, it slows him down.

For one, Pacquiao happens to be a top-rate risk taker who seldom gives his foe room to plot and think.

***

In Pacquiao's case, it's his fists that do the thinking.

His greatest, sharpest weapons are secret, nameless.

His role is to outbox, not to outthink, Morales.

Pacquiao happens to be a warrior, not a silly solon.

He can't afford to be a bore.

Let him return to the chessboard, but only after his next big ring assignment.

***

(SOS: From poetess Chiqui Almeda-- This is a call for help for "Milenyo" victims in Biñan, Laguna, who lost their homes, loved ones, everything. This Damayan effort of Kiwanis Biñan, Colegio Monterei de Pila, Lambat-Saya Inc. is in cooperation with acting Biñan Mayor Lenlen Alonte. Your kind gesture will go a long way to bring some balance in so much human misery. You can leave donations, food, clothes, beddings, slippers at the Timog Petron station in Quezon City, main dropoff point.)

PSC firm on team size

Reducing number of coaches useless, says Ramirez

By June Navarro

SPORTS OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO DO SOME JUGGLING ACTS IN Asian Games Village in Doha, Qatar, to house the entire 400-strong RP contingent.

The Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee had earlier reiterated its stand limiting the number of beds for the RP delegation to 316. This would leave 84 other members of the delegation without a place to stay in the Asian Games village.

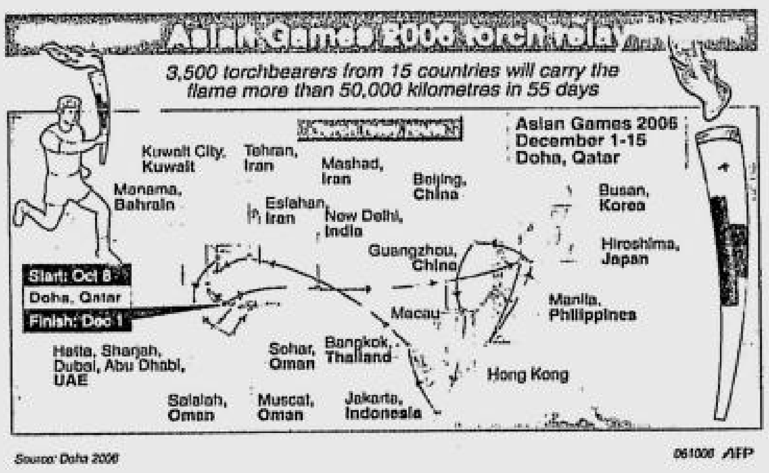
"It's just a matter of managing the number of athletes and officials who will be there during the peak of occupancy," said Philippine Sports Commission chair and RP chief of mission Butch Ramirez.

He said RP delegation officials in Doha may send home athletes and coaches a day or two after they have seen action so that other members of the delegation can use their rooms.

According to Ramirez, the proposal to reduce the number of coaches so that more athletes can compete is unnecessary.

"The athletes and coaches should go together," he said. "One without the other will be useless. It's a question of: Are we striving to win or are we just participating in the games?"

Officials of the Philippine contingent are seeking accomodations for a total of 267 athletes and 133 coaches in the Asian Games Village.



Source: Doha 2006 061006 AFP

Asiad torch relay

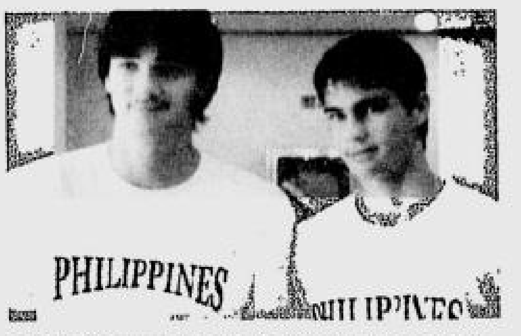
Meanwhile, the Asian Games torch will be carried by a series of runners across 10 cities in Metro Manila when it arrives from Busan, South Korea, on Tuesday next week.

The torch relay, which started in Doha, will visit the cities of Manila, Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati, Taguig Pasay and Parañaque during the 12-hour long affair on Oct. 19.

Organizers of the torch relay, led by retired Gen. Mario Tanchangco and Nic Cabalza, told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila that former President Fidel V. Ramos, bowling World Cup champions Paeng Nepomuceno and Bong Coo, World Masters titlist Biboy Rivera, SEA Games aquatics gold medallists Akiko Thomson and Sheila Mae Perez will be among the torch bearers.

RP squad recalls Younghusbands

By Cedelf Tupas



JAMES Younghusband (left) was dropped by Chelsea while the club has kept Phil.

FILIPINO-BRITISH brothers James and Phil Younghusband have been recalled to bolster the national football team for the qualifying stage of the Asean Football Federation Cup in Bacolod City next month.

The Younghusbands, who saw action in the Southeast Asian Games last year, will not be the only foreign-born players strengthening the national lineup for the Nov. 12-20 tournament, which serves as a qualifier for the main draw of the AFF Cup, formerly known as the Tiger Cup, set in Thailand in January.

National team coach Aris Caslib confirmed Monday night the inclusion of another Fil-Briton, Matthew Hartmann, a defender, and midfielder Chris Greatwich to the pool of players for the tournament.

The Younghusbands and Greatwich may join the rest of the squad two weeks before RP faces Laos in its opening match on Nov. 12 at the Panaad Stadium pitch.

The RP booters and Laos played to a 1-all draw the last time they met in the 2002 World Cup qualifying in May 2001 in Manila.

"We want the best team possible for the AFF Cup qualifiers," said Caslib, who supervises the nationals' training at the PhilSports pitch in Pasig City.

P108-M PSC budget OK'd

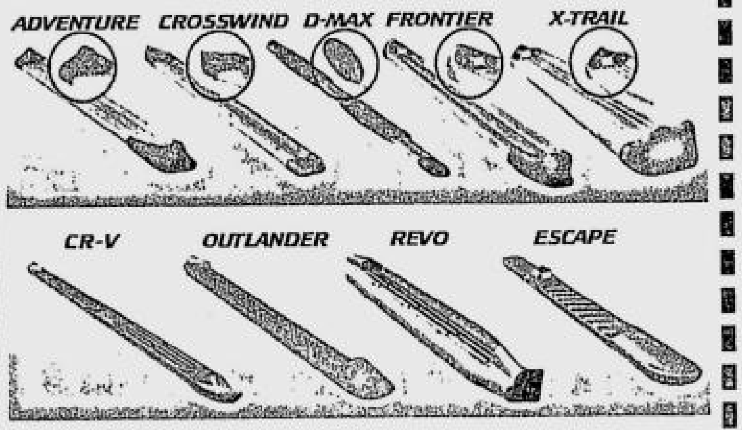
BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS have assured the Philippine Sports Commission they would approve the government agency's P108 million budget next year.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday confirmed that the Senate and the House of Representatives okayed the agency's operational costs for 2007.

After yesterday's Senate hearing, Ramirez said the proposed budget got the nod of the committee chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon and would be finalized when the Senate convenes again in a plenary session.

The House of Representatives also approved the same amount.

"I thank the House and the Senate for putting the budget back," said Ramirez, stressing that the P108-million allocation is a giant leap from the P37 million the PSC got from government coffers this year.



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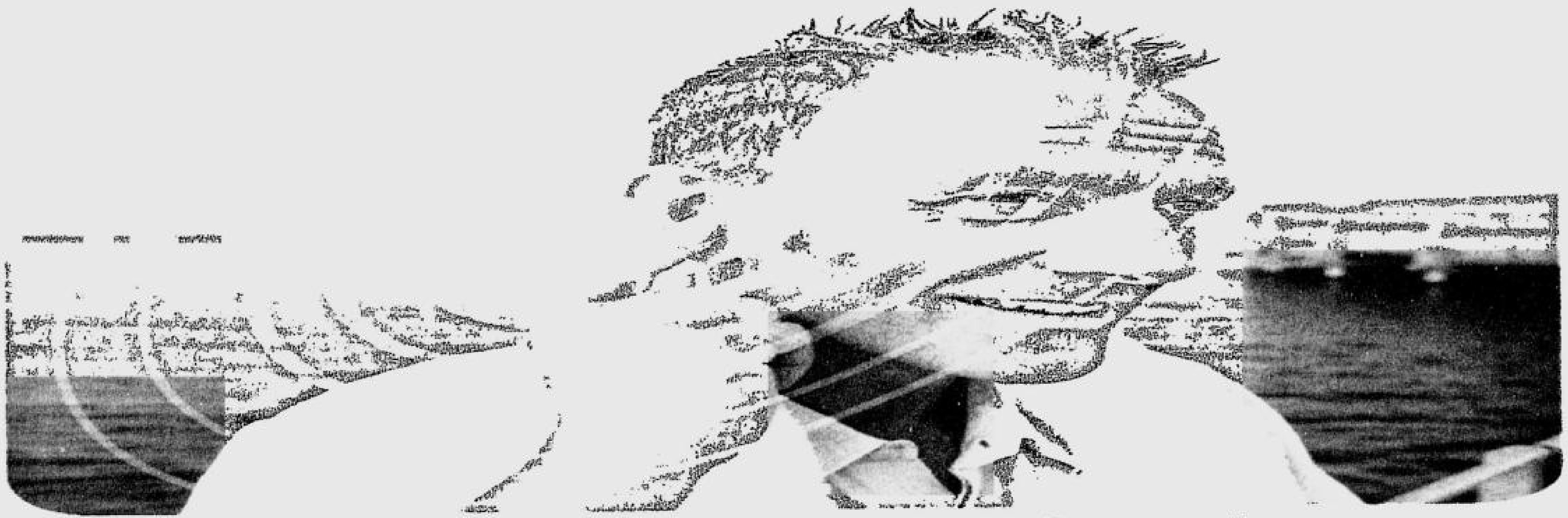

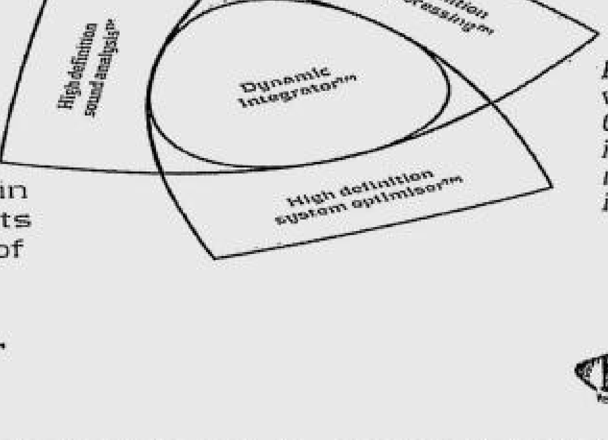
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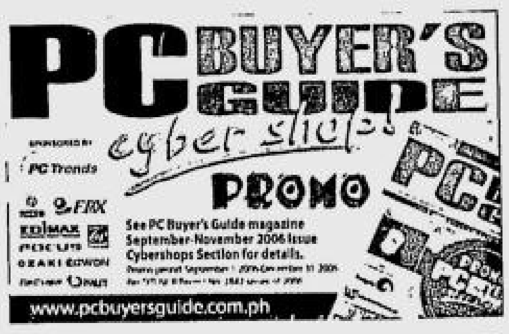
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Palace backtracks on cheap loans program

INDICATORS

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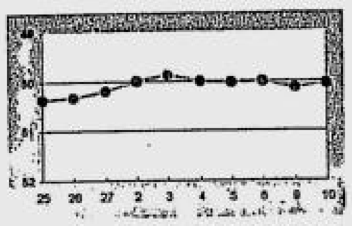


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.04 = $

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2006

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.90-PERCENT lower yesterday amid extended profit-taking on recent gains and a lack of fresh leads to drive the market higher, dealers said.

They said although Wall Street and the Japanese market reacted calmly to North

SHARES/ B2

GMA to amend EO; social welfare agency to take lead

By Daxim L. Lucas

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS SET TO AMEND THE controversial EO 558, which critics feared would open the floodgates to a new round of costly government dole-outs.

Drafted in response to strong opposition from the private sector and some government agencies, the amended order effectively kills the Arroyo administration's plan to have government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government non-financial agencies (GNFAs) lend out money at low interest rates to private borrowers.

In a recent interview, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves confirmed the plan to issue an amended order—dubbed EO 558-A—to prevent a repeat of previous state-funded dole-out programs that cost the government an estimated P40 billion in losses since the 1970s.

Another ranking finance department official, requesting anonymity, said the amended order would restrict the lending program through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This represents a significant departure from the original plan, which would have allowed all GOCCs and GFNAs—regardless of their fields of expertise—to engage in lending operations.

"We tried to limit the program to only the unserved villages," he said, referring to rural areas which are beyond the reach of private microfinance institutions.

President Arroyo earlier justified the repeal of the Estrada-era ban on state dole-outs, saying that many areas in the countryside remained unserved by the microfinance industry that sprung up as a result of the order.

The finance department official said the areas that would be eligible for cheap loans under the DSWD's Self-Em-

PALACE/ B2

Vehicle sales hardly grew in Jan.-Sept.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES GROWTH was almost flat at 0.2 percent from January to September, putting turnover far from the 100,000-unit mark that assemblers said would be an indication of continued growth.

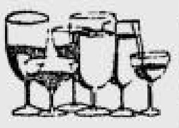
In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said a total of 72,085 units were sold as of end-September against 71,936 units in the same period last year.

The report said they needed to sell an average of more than 9,300 units a month in the fourth quarter if they would hurdle 100,000 units this year.

The assemblers also reported that

VEHICLE/ B5

IN THIS ISSUE



■ **Tantocos** prepare for supermarket listing /B3

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 10, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	41.5	41.5	40.5	41	918,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57.5	57.5	56.5	57	1,312,100
China Banking Corp.	640	645	640	645	2,250
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	7,620,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	66	66	65.5	66	118,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	41	40	41	214,000
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	21,300
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	79,700
Security Bank Corp.	54	54	53	54	4,520,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	1,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.65	1,567,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	5,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	105,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1990	1990	1990	1990	30
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,490,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	214,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51	50.5	51	361,500
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	22	21.5	22	210,400
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	31	30	31	698,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.9	3,304,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4.05	2,229,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	245,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	20,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	5,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	38,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	37	36.5	36.5	396,400
RFM Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	290,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.55	212,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	119,400
San Miguel Corp. B	76	76	75	76	302,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.5	19.5	19	19.5	3,574,700
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	3,800,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.98	2	1.96	1.98	382,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.6	1.72	1.6	1.72	184,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	905,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.64	1.8	1.64	1.78	679,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.75	4.75	4.6	4.65	765,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	7,190,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	33,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Ayala Corp.	492.5	492.5	477.5	482.5	343,860
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	1,364,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	6,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.24	2.28	2.24	2.28	521,000
APC Group Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	190,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	9,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	500,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	15,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	6,417,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.25	2,694,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	773,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	70,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	6.9	7	1,414,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.5	1.62	1.46	1.58	8,605,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	20,000
SM Investments Corp.	257.5	257.5	249	255	129,360
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,700,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	9,751,600
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,603,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1	1.1	0.98	1.04	1,529,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	52,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.22	900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	17,370,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	193,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	1,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.62	1.64	8,517,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	9,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,400,000
City & Land Developers	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	47,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.72	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.88	6,716,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	82,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	15,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	952,800
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,900,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.6	4,325,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	230,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	251,800
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	140,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	4.8	5	4.8	4.9	101,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.44	20,451,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1130	1145	1090	1095	67,400
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.6	5,024,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2200	2200	2150	2190	451,290
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	390,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	6,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2.06	2.06	2	2	61,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.0575	7,200,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	52,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	14,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	201,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	50,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	18.5	18.75	18	18.75	939,700
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	1.98	485,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	15,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	3	2.9	2.95	161,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.46	70,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.75	133,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	693,000
Paxys Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	1,356,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	1,092,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	474,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	26,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	305,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	176,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	91,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.6	2,163,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19	19	18.75	18.75	609,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	380,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	980,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.96	0.98	0.96	0.98	310,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.4	45,000

CURRENCIES

October 10, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.793588	1.000000	50.1070
Japan	Yen	0.006663	0.008396	0.4207
United Kingdom	Pound	1.482184	1.867700	93.5848
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101886	0.128386	6.4330
Switzerland	Franc	0.629283	0.792959	39.7328
Canada	Dollar	0.706479	0.890234	44.6070
Singapore	Dollar	0.498861	0.628615	31.4980
Australia	Dollar	0.590687	0.744325	37.2959
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.105175	2.652731	132.9204
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211624	0.266667	13.3619
Brunei	Dollar	0.497298	0.626645	31.3993
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021140	0.026638	1.3348
UAE	Dirham	0.216077	0.272279	13.6431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.260100	63.1398
Argentina	Peso	0.255584	0.322061	16.1375
Brazil	Real	0.368083	0.463822	23.2407
Denmark	Kroner	0.134131	0.169019	8.4690
India	Rupee	0.017384	0.021906	1.0976
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214861	0.270746	13.5663
Mexico	New Peso	0.071597	0.090219	4.5206
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520352	0.655695	32.8549
South Africa	Rand	0.101424	0.127804	6.4039
Korea	Won	0.000824	0.001038	0.0520
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023986	0.030225	1.5145

Shares close lower

From page B1

Korea's first-ever nuclear test, investors remained wary over the geopolitical tensions which could follow.

The composite index fell 22.94 points to 2,528.98 after trading between 2,518.87 and 2,551.92.

Losers led gainers 43 to 40, with 56 stocks unchanged.

Volume was 737.1 million shares worth P2.3 billion.

"Investors took a cautious stance and the market is also undergoing a correction which we expect to continue in the next few days," said Harry Liu, of Summit Securities.

Liu said the tensions arising from North Korea's nuclear weapons test also weighed on market sentiment but it was more of a knee-jerk reaction. *AFP*

DISCLOSURES

LORENZO Shipping Corp. has appointed Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. as external auditor for fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2006.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. has disclosed the listing of 11,200 common shares on Oct. 10, bringing the number of common shares listed under the company's tandem stock purchase and option plan to 15,337,775. ***Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research***

Chemrez to raise ₱1.5B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CHEMREZ TECHNOLOGIES INC., FORMERLY Corro-Coat Inc., plans to raise P1.5 billion from a public offering to pare down debt and finance working capital for its biodiesel operations.

In a registration statement and draft prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday, Chemrez chief finance officer Francis Caluag said the bio-diesel producer planned to offer between 306 million and 385 million new shares at P3.90-P4.90 a share.

The offered shares will result in an additional public float of 22.5 percent to 26.7 percent of the biofuel firm's expanded capital.

Caluag said Chemrez has tapped Asian Alliance Investment Corporation to be the lead underwriter.

Corro-Coat is the market leader in the manufacture and distribution of powder coatings.

The company earlier this year entered into a share-swap agreement with affiliate Chemrez Inc., a biodiesel producer, which effectively made Chemrez a wholly-owned Corro-Coat subsidiary.

The company name was changed to Chemrez Technologies.

Chemrez has a P650-million biodiesel facility in Libis, Quezon City, that can produce 60 million liters of biodiesel a year.

Palace . . .

From page B1

ployment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K) capacity-building program would be identified by Philippine Credit and Finance Corp., and an agency that reports to the finance secretary.

The program will focus on enhancing the entrepreneurial skills of rural beneficiaries and training them in their chosen fields of business. "Once they have the necessary skills, they will be directed to a GFI (government financial institution), which will then direct them to a private conduit which will be responsible for lending out the money," the finance official explained.

The DOF drafted the amendment to the controversial Palace order and the final draft was now awaiting President Arroyo's signature, according to the official.

The official said the new EO has already been "approved in principle," representing a significant change in the fortunes of the DOF, which had initially balked at being left out of the implementation process by Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap, the original program's main backer.

The Microfinance Council of the Philippines Inc. (MFCI) welcomed the development, saying the amendments allayed some of the sector's fears.

"The scope will be limited to the 10 poorest provinces where there are no MFIs (microfinance institutions) operating," MFCI executive director Edgardo Garcia said in an interview.

The Makati Business Club (MBC) also welcomed the Palace's move to amend the controversial order, but suggested a more direct way of addressing the private sector's concerns.

"Instead of amending EO 558, they should just repeal it and go back to EO 138," MBC executive director Guillermo Luz said in an interview. "The most elegant route is usually the simplest route."

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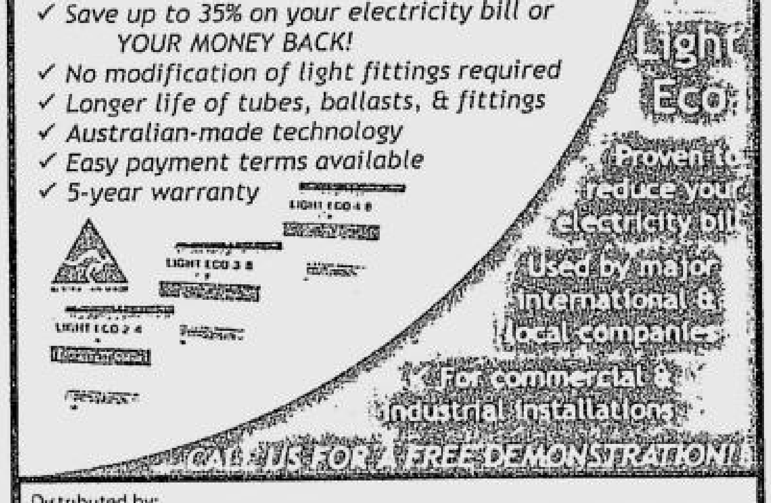
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Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Equipment for CY 2006)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Re-bidding for Various Equipments:

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
A. Office Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Office Equipment for OSND	PhP 1,971,000.00
B. Furniture Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Furniture Equipment for OSND	2,469,300.00
C. IT Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Assorted IT Equipment for OSND	2,260,000.00
D. Multi Media Equipment	Supply and Delivery of Multi Media Equipment for OSND	831,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 7,531,300.00

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg. DND	04 October 2006 to 26 October 2006	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	16 October 2006	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	27 October 2006	9:30 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel. No. 911-8118:

PROJECT		COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A.	Office Equipment	Php 1,900.00
B.	Furniture Equipment	2,400.00
C.	IT Equipment	2,200.00
D.	Multi Media Equipment	800.00

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org, and the DND website at www.dnd.gov.ph, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F. CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI – October 4 & 11, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted, to bid for the one time hiring of the services of an Insurance Consultant to undertake a risk-based analysis of all BSP properties except paintings, antiquities and artworks, based on updated appraisal and to advise BSP on the appropriate perils and basis of insurance coverage.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P3 Million

Contract Duration: The work shall be completed within three hundred sixty (360) calendar days to commence after receipt of Notice to Proceed

The scope of the work includes, among others, 1) documentary review and evaluation of all available documents of Bank properties; 2) field investigation; and 3) analyses and recommendations.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested consultants must meet the following criteria:

1.0 Must have knowledge of insurance law and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) property insurance operations;

2.0 Must have at least five (5) years experience in the management or regulation of property insurers of five (5) years practicing experience as underwriter or an equivalent experience;

3.0 Must not have been employed by the GSIS for the last 12 months, and

4.0 Must have undertaken a similar and/or related risk management project for the last ten (10) years.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the proposal and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Eligibility Data Sheet.

The list of eligibility requirements may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on 11 October to 20 October 2006 upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Interested suppliers must submit the eligibility documents to the BAC, Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila not later than 24 October 2006.

Bid documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders [top five (5) shall be considered] upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,500.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The provisions of **Republic Act No. 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as result of this invitation. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Oct 11, 2006)

Tantocos prepare for supermarket listing

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE TANTOCOS OF RUSTAN fame is spinning off its 22-store supermarket and grocery business to its affiliate, Shopwise, preparatory to an eventual public listing, this we have confirmed.

Rustan's Fresh and Express Lanes will close down by the end of this month, and will reopen mid-November under the same names but already under the management of Shopwise.

Although headed by a third-generation Tantoco as president, Shopwise, formally known as Rustan's Supercenters Inc., is actually majority owned by institutional investors led by the AIG Group and the ICCP Ventures of investment bank Investment and Capital Corporation of the Philippines.

After the supermarket spin-off, the Tantocos will still retain the flagship Rustan's department stores under the family holding company, Rustan Commercial Corp., chaired by the patriarch, Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco.

According to the grapevine, Rustan will lease for 20 years the entire assets of its supermarket division to Shopwise, whose six-superstore chain jumps to 28 by next month with the acquisition.

Despite being managed by the mid-market Shopwise, Rustan Supermarket will continue its high-end positioning, just as it had positioned itself since its 1970 beginnings.

To beef up per branch sales, Shopwise president Donnie Tantoco plans to add anywhere from 5,000 to 15,000 items per super-store/hypermarket.

A major innovation will be the introduction of Shopwise's own private clothing label, including a trendy female line with a 12-week fashion season.

To help in the transition period, Shopwise brought back its pioneers—designer Malu Fernandez, co-owner of Luscious specialty

COCKTALES/ B5

Anti-piracy drive nets ₱752M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S drive to protect intellectual property rights resulted in a haul of P752.4 million worth of counterfeit products in the first semester as agencies strengthened the campaign outside Metro Manila, according to the Intellectual Property Office.

IP Philippines Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the government was well on its way to sustaining the clampdown on the sale and distribution of counterfeit goods as operations spread to Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Pampanga, Bataan and Cebu.

Cristobal said the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) was keeping up the tempo of the government's strengthened campaign against piracy in partnership with IP stakeholders in the private sector.

NCIPR is made up of IP Philippines and the IP enforcement teams of various agencies along with the Task Force on Anti-Piracy of the Department of Justice, the Supreme Court, the National Telecommunications Communication, the National Book Development Board and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime.

The Optical Media Board, the Bureau of Customs, National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group have their respective IP enforcement teams.

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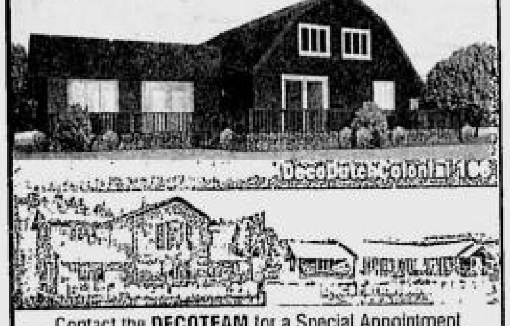

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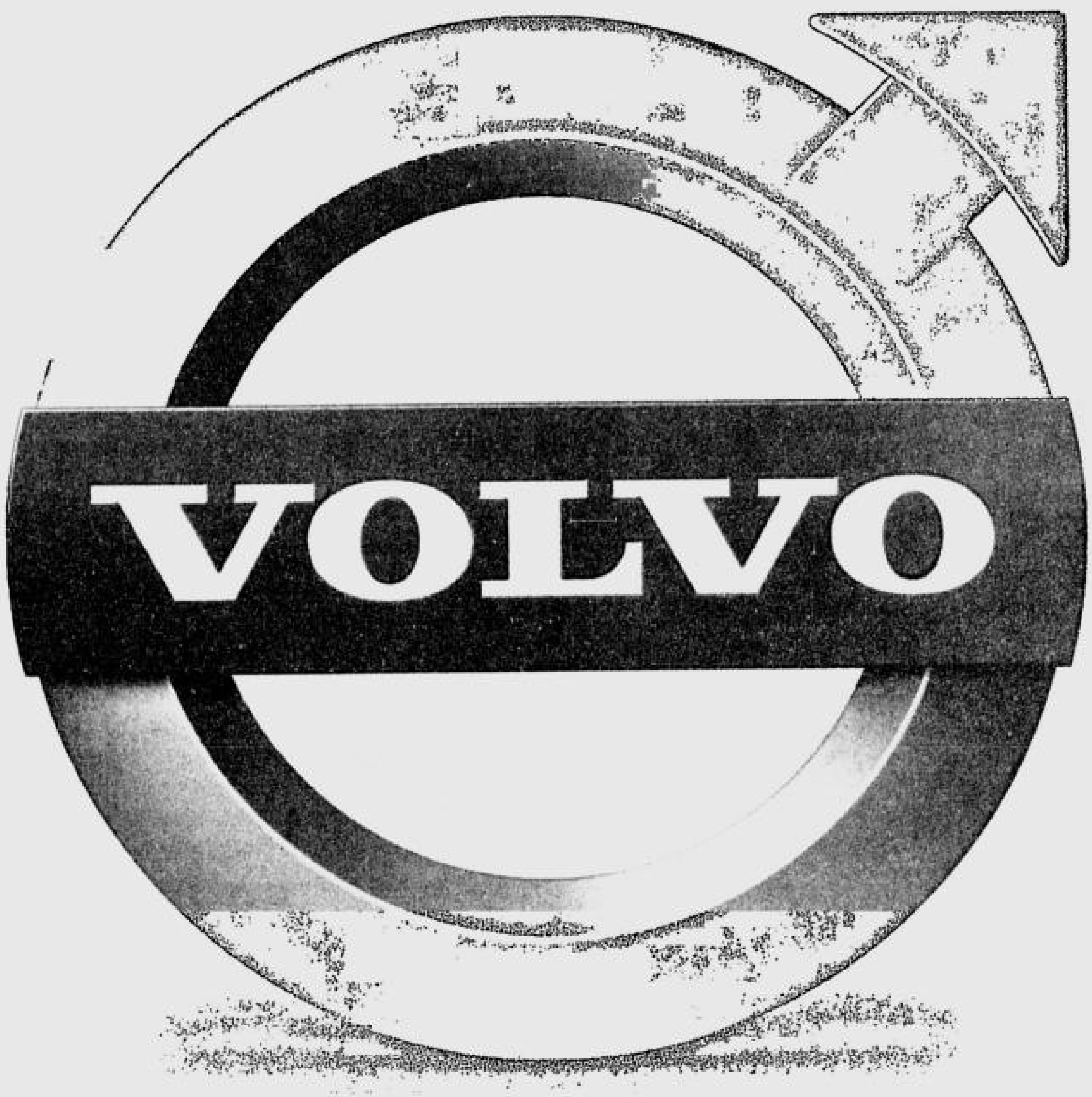

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*Subject to bank approval.

SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
Tels.: 064-200-3155/4050, 064-447-0327/0326; Fax: 064-200-3156

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) invites Sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following projects funded under its reinvestment and the NEA subsidy funds:

1. Supply, Delivery and Replenishment of the following materials on consignment basis: i.) Brand New Distribution Transformers (3-, 5-, 7.5-, 10-, 15-, 25-, 37.5-, 50-kVA; all rated 7,620/240V conventional pole type double bushing); ii.) Concrete Poles (25', 30', 35', 40' at 250-, 350-, & 500-kgs.); Steel Poles (25', 30', 35, 40' at 280-, 310-, 330- & 400-kgs.) and Tanalized Wood Poles (25', 30', 35', 40' class 2, 3 & 4); iii.) Duplex Conductor #6 AWG; and iv.) kWh Meters (CL2, 30Amp max bottom connected, 2W 240V and; CL100 100Amp max socket type with socket, 2W 240V).
2. Supply of Labor and/or Materials for the Proposed Collection Office in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.
3. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Brand New Three Phase SF6 Power Circuit Breaker, 69kV.
4. Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Brand New Three Phase Recloser, 15.5 kV.
5. Supply of Labor (including ROW Clearing) and/or Materials for the following Distribution Line Construction Projects: i.) Prk. KBL, Kapaya, Bagumbayan; ii.) Prk. Kaunlaran, Sagasa, Esperanza; iii.) Prk. Maabi-abihon, Daladap, Esperanza; iv.) Prk. Sumilalao, Katiku, Pres. Quirino; v.) 75th IB, Tual, Pres. Quirino; vi.) Prk. G-Molina, New Passi, Tacurong City, and; vii.) Gawak Kalinga Housing Project, Poblacion Dalu Paglas.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Engineering Manager, Engr. Godofredo F. Sanchez, Jr

Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting October 10, 2006 by an interested eligible Bidder upon submission of a written application to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as follows:

1. One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) each for Bid Item Nos. 1, 4 and 5 above;
2. Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for Bid Item #3 above;

Sealed envelope containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duly marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10:00 a.m., October 26, 2006 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposals of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidders of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend. otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders.

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., at the Board Room.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or cashier's check, in the amount equivalent to 2-1/2% of the amount of bid. This bid security shall be valid for at least 150 days starting from the date of bid opening.

The Sultan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) GODOFREDO F. SANCHEZ
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) DEMETRIO O. JEREZ
General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 11 & 17, 2006)

MANILA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

HARVARD ROAD, FORBES PARK
MAKATI CITY

October 11, 2006

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

TO ALL MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Bidding Committee of Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc., hereby announces the auction sale of the following described property:

(a) one (1) individual proprietary membership certificate.
(b) one (1) corporate proprietary membership certicate.

Any interested party may submit his written bid beginning today until 4:00 p.m., October 19, 2006 to the Office of the Club's General Manager.

The bid shall be subject to the following conditions:

(c) Minimum bid of P12,100,000.00 for individual proprietary membership certificate.
(d) Minimum bid of P13,100,000.00 for corporate proprietary membership certicate.
(e) Bids shall be accompanied by manager's check equivalent to 20% of the bid price payable to the Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc. and the balance within three (3) days from notice of bid acceptance.
(f) Exemption from the transfer fee of P300,000.00.
(g) Certificate wil be issued immediately upon receipt of full payment and documentary stamp taxes.

(Sgd.) CESAR CRUZ
Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2006)

ISABELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

INVITATION TO BID

Supply of 13.2 kV Line Hardwares and Materials for the Construction of Single-Phase Distribution Lines for the following barangays:

1. Brgy. Sindon Bayabo, Ilagan, Isabela
2. Brgy. Sindon Maride, Ilagan, Isabela
3. Brgy. Sta. Victoria, Naguilian, Isabela

Total kilometers of Line:

1. Phase = 15,150 kms.
U.B.= 2.200 kms.
O.S.= 4,420 kms.

NEA CODE No.	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT REQ'MNTS.
0215 02 00	Attachment, Guy, Malleable Type with 11/16 Hole Diameter	105
0635 06 10	Bolt, Double Upset, 5/8"x10"	60
0636 15 09	Bolt, Oval Eye, 5/8"x9"	90
0636 15 10	Bolt, Oval Eye, 5/8"x10"	65
0638 05 10	Bolt, Machine, 5/8"x10"	75
0638 05 12	Bolt, Machine, 5/8"x12"	50
0639 05 08	Bolt, Single Upset, 5/8"x8"	100
0639 05 10	Bolt, Single Upset, 5/8"x10"	50
0780 45 00	Bracket, Secondary, without Spool	40
1141 19 10	Clamp, Hot Line, #2 - #4/0 ACSR Main to #2 #4/0	25
1172 10 25	Clamp, Loop Dead-end, #6 to #2/0 ACSR	200
1172 33 35	Clamp, Dead-end Strain, #4 - #4/0 ACSR	50
1173 22 91	Clamp, Guy Straight, 3 Bolt Heavy Duty Steel	425
1174 22 19	Clamp, Suspension, Aluminum Alloy Clevis, 2 Bolts #2 ACSR Max.	50
1230 12 01	Clevis, Secondary Swinging Without Spool	120
1511 02 61	Conductor, Bare, ACSR #2, AWG, 6/1 (Meters)	45,000
1512 02 61	Conductor, Insulated, ACSR #2, AWG, 6/1 (Mters)	20,000
1612 06 01	Conductor, Duplex, #6 AWG (Meters)	4,500
	Connector, wedge, Type II White 602283-3, #2ACSR-#6AAC AMPACT	600
	Connector, wedge, Type II White 502283-8, #AAC-#8AWG Cu AMPACT	600
1765 16 57	Connector, Split Bolt	120
1834 13 21	Cut out And Arrester Combination, 100A, 15KV, AB Chance	10
3422 31 10	Insulator, Pin Type, Porcelain, ANSI Class 55 - 4	150
3426 20 11	Insulator, Spool,1-3/4", ANSI Class 53 - 2	300
3426 40 11	Insulator, Spool, 3", ANSI Class 53 - 4	70
3428 10 11	Insulator, Suspension, 6" Clevis Type	120
3612 00 03	Link, Fuse, Universal, Bottom Head, 3 Amperes, Std.	7
3612 00 12	Link, Fuse, Universal, Bottom Head, Type K, 12 Amperes	3
	Meter, KWH, Electronic, 1 Ph. Class 1, 10 (60) A AMERICO	150
4561 21 20	Pin, Pole Top, Channel, 1" Thread, 20" Long	135
5261 85 07	Rod, Anchor, Threaded, Single Eye, 5/8" x 7"	105
6936 25 11	Transformer, Pole, type, Conventional, 15 KVA, Philec	2
6936 25 13	Transformer, Pole, type, Conventional, 15 KVA, Philec	4
6936 25 15	Transformer, Pole, Type, Conventional, 25 KVA, Philec	1
7102 04 51	Washer, Square, Flat 2-1/4" x 2-1/4" x 1/16" Diameter Hole	744
7232 04 03	Wire, Grounding, Aluminum Alloy, 3 Strand, #4 AWG (Feet)	1,000
7383 83 07	Wire, Guy, Steel, 3/8", 7 Strand (Feet)	5,250
	STEEL MATERIAL	
	Pole, Steel, 25', Class 1	50
	Pole, Steel, 30', Class 1	170

Specification:

1. For Steel Poles, 25 Ft.	Top	115 mm diameter
	Bottom	200 mm diameter
	Thickness	2.5 mm
For Steel Poles, 30 Ft.	Top	102 mm diameter
	Bottom	202 mm diameter
	Thickness	2.5 mm

Two (2) Sections

2. Transformers must be 7.62/13.2kV Grd-Y, 240 V. pole-type
3. All Line Materials and hardwares must be brand new and meet the requirements in accordance with ANSI C135.1 – 1979, ASTM B686-82, ANSI/ASTM A153-82 and NEA Specifications.

Delivery Period: Fifteen (15) days

Suppliers are invited to submit Company Profile, Letter of Intent and to pay a Bidding Fee in the amount of PhP 5,000.00 not later than October 19, 2006.

Interested Suppliers are invited to a sealed Public Bidding and to be opened in the presence of bidders. Pre-qualification bid will be onducted at 9:00 a.m. and at the same time sealed proposals must be submitted to the PBAC on October 19, 2006, and publicly opened at 10:00 a.m. on the same date.

ISELCO II reserves the right to reject any of all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein and accept only bid advantageous to the Cooperative

TOTAL MATERIAL COST BUDGET: PhP 3,490,000.00 VAT Inclusive

(Sgd.) ENGR. MARIANO R. DAYAG, JR.
General Manager

(PDI--Oct. 11, 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please take notice that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the change in the corporate name of Cashrounds, Inc. to Information Capital Technology Ventures, Inc. (ICTV) on 19 September 2006.

ANGELINE L. MACASAET
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified of the loss of the Alien Certificate of Registration ID Cards of STEFANIE DORNAU (E061878) ARITHA DORNAU (E061880) and GONZALES KUBLER DORNAU (E101545) on or about September 15, 2006 in Makati City

(PDI - October 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
CAMARINES SUR STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur
Telefax No. (054) 477-33-41

NOTICE OF SEARCH & CALL FOR APPLICATION

The Board of Trustees formally and publicly announces that the
Search for the Presidency
of Camarines Sur State Agricultural College is now OPEN.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Filipino citizen;
- Preferably holder of an EARNED doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Must have five (5) years relevant managerial and administrative experience;
- Recognized leadership in his/her profession;
- Morally upright and never been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- Preferably not more than sixty (60) years old at the time of the application.

Documents Required – (Six (6) Copies):

- Letter of intention/application
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae and all supporting documents
- Proposed vision, mission and thrust for the College/ University
- Clearances from Police, NBI, Ombudsman, Sandiganbayan and Civil Service Commission
- Full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed.

Medical certificate and result of neuro-psychiatric examination shall be asked from the final candidates who will be recommended to the CSSAC Board of Trustees.

Applications are requested to be submitted on or before November 10, 2006 to:

Dr. Patricio S. Faylon
Executive Director
Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development
Los Baños, Laguna

or

Mr. Gilberto D. Aguilar
Board Secretary V
Camarines Sur State Agricultural College
San Jose, Pili, Camarines Sur

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
on the 72nd Birth Anniversary of

JOHNSON ROBERT L. GO, SR.

(October 11, 1934 – December 1, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental	8:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Holy Family Chapel, Eastwood, Libis, Q.C.	12:15 p.m.
Maria de la Strada Parish Church, La Vista Subd., Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills West, San Juan	6:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Broadway, Q.C.	6:00 a.m.
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. Diliman Campus, Q.C.	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East, San Juan	6:15 p.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace, EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Q.C.	5:30 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel Air, Makati City	6:30 p.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City	6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz Street, Makati City	6:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish Church, Pinaglabanan, San Juan	6:15 p.m.

As a continuing tribute to Johnson and his lifelong love for reading and knowledge, the JRL Go Memorial Library, Inc. will dedicate the second **Johnson Robert L. Go, Sr. Children's Memorial Library** in his memory at 9:30 a.m. today at the Sagrada Elementary School, Barangay Alangilanan, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental.

Johnson will always be deeply loved, and most sorely missed, by those he left behind –

whose lives he enriched with his wisdom, humor, and quiet grace;
who were inspired by the example of his fairness, deep humility,
and strength of character; or
who received so much from him than he ever asked in return.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

LUZ ESPINOSA ARVILLE

of Tarlac City and Muntinlupa City

died in the Grace of our Lord
on October 9, 2006 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **John "Snooky" Arville** & **Lois Hill Arville**, **Raymond "Bunny" Arville** and **Susan Katigbak Arville**; sister **Gloria "Tita Get" Espinosa**, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Baltazar Chapel Funeraria Paz, Sucat-Manila Memorial Park until Thursday, October 12, 2006. Interment will be on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at Tarlac City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Shopwise to invest ₱250M in Rustan's supermarts

MWCI gets ₱1.5-B loan

By Christine A. Gaylican

MANILA WATER COMPANY INC. HAS secured a P1.5-billion loan from a syndicate of lenders to finance its capital investment program for next year.

MWCI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the facility was arranged by ING Bank.

Participating lenders include Sun Life of Canada, Security Bank, Equitable PCI Bank and Land Bank of the Philippines.

MWCI, the water distribution subsidiary of the Ayala Group, ended the first half with water sales reaching a record 933 million liters a day, 56 mld more than last year.

According to MWCI president Antonino T. Aquino, initiatives to address losses, coupled with efficient network management allowed the company to further cut its non-revenue water (NRW) to 30.2 percent of total water resources, a 6-percent reduction from June 2005 levels.

NRW refers to unbilled water due to pilferage and illegal connections.

"Year-to-date revenues are at P3.21 billion, up 12 percent year-on-year. The revenue increase compared to last year was brought about by the combined effect of tariff adjustments (CPI) and 6-percent growth in water sales," Aquino said.

During the period, earnings before income tax and depreciation (Ebitda) of P1.79 billion further grew, with margins at 58 percent, 4 percent higher than last year's P1.49 billion.

Net income amounted to P1.23 billion, 25 percent higher than P986 million posted in the same period last year, the company financial report stated.

Total assets remained solid at P20.87 billion, up by 16 percent from December 2005 level.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

RUSTAN SUPERCENTERS INC., owner of the Shopwise hypermarket chain, is investing P250 million in Rustan Commercial Corp. after it won the bid for a 20-year asset lease agreement.

The agreement signed last Sept. 22 covered 22 Rustan's Fresh and Express Lane outlets in Manila and Cebu, and Rustan-owned restaurants Bon Appetit, Char-Q and Hi-Lo.

Shopwise president Donnie V. Tantoco told the Inquirer that the P250 million would be used to refurbish the Rustan's Fresh and Express Lane outlets, buy new cash registers and introduce new product lines.

Hypermart bags 20-year lease deal

The Shopwise group will also beef up Rustan's organic line, emphasize wellness and beauty, and improve the ready-to-cook section and the bakeshop.

Tantoco said all Rustan's Supermarkets and Express Lanes would be closed at the end of the month and would resume operations under Shopwise management in November.

Tantoco said RCC decided to let go of its supermarket division under the Rustan's Supermarkets Inc., to focus on its core department store business—the more than 50-year-old Rustan's Department Store.

Shopwise vice president Catherine Y. Tantoco said the group would reduce the number of Rustan's Fresh outlets to four to five from the current eight.

Shopwise would also decide later on whether to reduce the number of Rustan's Express, which are mini-supermarket stores in residential areas.

The outlets will retain the Rustan's name but the purchasing and management will be centralized under Shopwise.

Tantoco said the consolidation of the Rustan's supermarkets with Shopwise's network would have a positive impact on the hypermart's operations.

"One is that we expect an increase in sales by 67 percent in 12 months; it will professionalize both operations, it will eliminate redundant expenses, we can pool our resources and we can negotiate better terms with suppliers," Tantoco said.

The seven outlets of Shopwise bring in annual revenues of about P8 billion.

The Rustan's supermarket outlets have been catering to the A, B market over the past 30 years.

They have been known to carry high-end and specialty food items and have introduced retail innovations.

Rustan's introduced the frequent shoppers card, and was the first to offer free grocery delivery.

Shopwise owners vow to retain all these perks.

CA tells PSE to pay ₱9.2M more in taxes

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS held the Philippine Stock Exchange liable for an income tax shortfall of P9.2 million incurred in 1995.

In a disclosure, the PSE said the appellate court affirmed the decision of the Court of Tax Appeals holding the PSE liable for deficiency in income taxes in 1995 plus interest and deficiency taxes worth P208,540 for late remittance of its withholding tax.

PSE was informed of the CA's decision last Sept. 21.

Industry sources said the taxes incurred involved PSE's donation to the PSE foundation.

No additional details were immediately available.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Vehicle . . .

From page B1

September sales slid by 3.8 percent to 8,509 units from the previous month's 8,724 units.

"Deliveries to dealers were delayed partly due to the 70-percent value-added tax cap," it said. "Production has also been lower."

The groups blamed the dismal sales in the last few days of September in the wake of Typhoon "Milenyo," which "affected overall performance toward the end of the month."

TMA and Campi are hoping for a boost in sales in the last quarter through aggressive marketing campaigns as most of them would want higher numbers and end the year with a positive growth against the 97,063 units sold in 2005.

As of the end-September, passenger car sales went up 4.5 percent to 27,977 units from 26,768 units a year ago.

Turnover of commercial vehicles—Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses—decreased by 2.3 percent to 44,108 units from 45,168 units.

Sales of AUVs went down 10.2 percent to 18,033 units while those of light trucks slid by 0.5 percent to 1,176 units.

Sales of light commercial vehicles—pickups, vans and compact sports utility vehicles—went up 4.2 percent to 24,394 units while those of trucks and buses grew by 6.3 percent to 505 units.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. stayed at the top with 38.2 percent of the market. It sold 27,501 units the previous nine months, up by 5 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. placed second with 14.1 percent of the market with sales reaching 10,144 units.

Cocktales

From page B3

store; Frances Yu, president of marketing outfit FJY Consulting and sister-in-law of Donnie Tantoco, and seafood consultant Ruel Jungco—who helped launch the first Shopwise branch, in Filinvest Alabang, in 1998.

According to the grapevine, Rustan Commercial Corp. retained the Dutch investment bank ING and Sycip Salazar law firm to advise the company on this spin-off.

Shopwise, on the other hand, was advised by ICCP and the Puno & Puno law firm.

Where's the beef?

BURGER King has closed down its strategic Greenbelt 1 branch, leaving the field to McDonald's and Wendy's among the big-name US hamburger chains in the flagship Ayala mall.

The Greenbelt closure comes amid last year's similar Burger King shutdowns in key districts such as Ortigas, Katipunan and Libis.

The local Burger King franchisee, which has been on the block for some time now, is controlled almost equally by the Ayala Corp. and the US parent, with Zobel in-law Francisco Jose "Patxi" Elizalde representing the swing minority shareholder.

Elizalde, when reached for comment, said he himself was in the dark as to why the Greenbelt branch had shut down.

Money-go-round

- THE COURT of Appeals has dismissed the petition of former Audi distributor Auto Prominence seeking to indict not only the German board of Audi for estafa but also Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno for reversing a pro-Auto Prominence resolution issued by a Pangasinan fiscal.
- IF you want your faith restored in local fruits amid the inroads of Thai imports, go sample the supersweet lanzones being produced by Rep. Gregorio Ipong of North Cotabato.

Heard through the grapevine

LOREN Legarda will launch her coffee-table book tomorrow at the Manila Polo Club. It would be a great show for Manila's chichi crowd to divine her body language with Antonio Leviste, assuming her lesser half would grace the occasion. *(Email: cocktales@cocktales.biz)*

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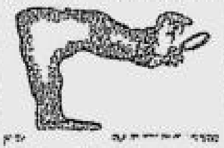

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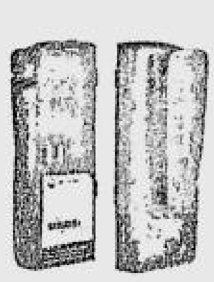

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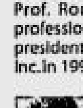
PROGRAM FACULTY

Prof. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr. is the Don Demetrio Tuason Professor of Agribusiness. He is on the core faculty of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (ACE). Prof. Lopez teaches marketing subjects in the other enterprise and development management courses of AIM. He is the Institute Guru of services marketing and the emerging field of one-to-one marketing. His other areas of specialization include social marketing, development communication, corporate social responsibility, entrepreneurship, strategic management, and information technology.

Prof. Jose Jesus F. Roces' areas of specialization encompass marketing, finance and human resource development, with particular emphasis on strategic marketing, strategic brand management and branding, e-Marketing, and customer relationship management (CRM). His marketing expertise is complemented by a strong finance orientation that is further enhanced by strong people skills.
Prof. Roces holds key positions in different professional and civic organizations. He served as president of the Philippine Marketing Association, Inc. in 1996, 2000 and 2001.



Prof. Emmanuel A. Leyco is the Director of AIM Health Care Management Program. He specializes in public policy analysis, public finance, health care finance, and international development issues.

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FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Ford invests in ethanol today

By Charles E. Buban

MOST OF US KNOW that by using fossil fuels—gasoline, diesel, or liquefied petroleum gas—to power our vehicles, we are slowly but surely destroying our planet and implicitly our health.

These are the reasons a number of groups and individuals are campaigning for a hydrogen-powered future since this type of power source is virtually inexhaustible and easily sourced as well as emits no harmful pollutants.

Unfortunately, switching instantly to hydrogen would require a huge investment in the infrastructure to store and distribute hydrogen to vehicles, in addition to the cost of the new vehicles themselves.

The main challenge right now is how to bridge the present fossil fuel dependence to a hydrogen-powered future.

Breakthrough

The breakthrough comes as a number of sectors are now spurring the development of new fuels that may be cheaper and not as prone to supply disruptions while at the same time, automakers are constantly looking for alternatives that are less harmful to the environment and not much of a health hazard to run their vehicles.

This includes American automaker giant Ford that believes ethanol—a form of alcohol produced mainly from sugarcane or other plants like corn—could be the answer to the world's energy dilemma as it's clean, and the fact that it's already powering a growing number of cars around the world.

Ford's interest in using ethanol as an alternative fuel goes back to the days of its founder, Henry Ford who planned to use ethanol as the primary fuel for his Model T, the very first cars ever made on an assembly line.

Ford's interest in using ethanol also goes well with the Philippines' current energy program that aims to decrease dependence on imported oil and develop the agriculture industry, specially sugarcane.

Show of support

To show its support, Ford Group Philippines recently unveiled its first-ever Flexible Fuel Vehicles: The Ford Focus in 1.8-liter and 2.0-liter Sport variants.

Both vehicles, while able to run on conventional gasoline, are E20 capable, meaning they can run on fuel composed of 80 percent gasoline and 20 percent ethanol.

The Focus FFVs will have the same price tags as their conventional fuel siblings: P1.025 million for the 2.0-liter variant and P975,000 and P945,000 for the two 1.8-liter variants.

The company assured that driving a Focus FFV is about the same as driving its gasoline counterpart since the look, the features and the layout all are identical.

Indeed, reduced fuel economy is the only real performance difference between the two and a Focus FFV driver gets the satisfaction of doing something that helps address national energy security as well as global warming concerns.

P1.1-B investment

The company had already invested P1.1 billion to manufacture these FFV-equipped cars in its Sta. Rosa, Laguna plant that has a potential capacity of producing 100,000 engines in the next five years.

As of now, Ford Philippines is the first flexible fuel engine manufacturing plant and the only Ford machine and Ford engine assembly operations in the Asean region.

Once fully operational by the end of 2006, these engines and completely built-up vehicle units, while readily available in the Philippine market, will also be exported to Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Why go for ethanol?

ETHANOL IS THE CENTERPIECE OF Ford's alternative fuel strategy and for the Philippines, it could prove to be one of the best sources of alternative fuel.

The use of ethanol or its blend has been proven elsewhere. In Brazil, ethanol provides more than 40 percent of the fuel for transportation. Moreover, cars capable of running on gasoline or gasoline/ethanol mixture grew from less than 1 percent of Brazil's new car market in 2001 to more than 70 percent today.

Blending ethanol with gasoline brings these benefits to the environment:

- It adds oxygen to the fuel, thereby raising the air/fuel ratio for more complete combustion.
- It is inherently cleaner than gasoline as it emits less hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
- It reduces carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 25 percent—and less carbon monoxide helps reduce ozone formation and helps reduce levels of greenhouse gases.
- It reduces overall toxic pollution by diluting harmful compounds found in gasoline such as benzene and other aromatics.

Last year, 10 percent ethanol-blended gasoline or E10 became available in select gasoline stations. Seaoil, together with Eastern Petroleum, became the first companies to offer E10. In fact, all of Seaoil's Metro Manila stations and a number of its northern and southern outlets in Luzon now offer E10. It has 106 stations nationwide.

Pilipinas Shell becomes the country's first major oil firm to offer preblended ethanol at pump but will initially be available in its Pandacan, Pasong Tamo, Buendia and South Triangle service stations.

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No deal

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

DEAL OR NO DEAL? NO DEAL. GENERAL Motors chair/chief executive Rick Wagoner told Carlos Ghosn, CEO of both Nissan Motor Co. and Renault SA, in a phone call in Paris Wednesday last week. Wagoner made the call the day after GM's board had voted unanimously to stop the tripartite talks.

The termination of the proposed alliance between the world's biggest automaker and the Franco-Japanese partnership ended three months of suspense during which the two sides were identifying and studying potential synergies (See "Shock in the Auto Industry," this column July 12). The deal would have created a colossus spanning three continents, reshaping the global auto industry.

Wagoner and Ghosn, in France for the Paris Motor Show, met for more than three hours on Sept. 27 at Renault headquarters outside the French capital. Afterward, the two companies announced that they had agreed to keep talking about a possible three-way alliance.

Pushed

Wagoner had been pushed into the talks by Las Vegas billionaire Kirk Kerkorian, who owns a 9.9 percent stake in GM. Last June, Kerkorian's representative on GM's board, Jerome York, publicly requested that GM pursue the alliance. At that time, Wagoner was (and still is) restructuring GM's North American operations after posting a $10.6 billion loss in 2005. But Kerkorian believed that he wasn't moving aggressively enough and that GM would benefit from the leadership of Ghosn, who saved Nissan from ruin in 2001 and made it one of the most profitable automakers by 2005.

Why, then, did GM end the talks? The deal breaker was GM wanting Renault-Nissan to pay several billion dollars up front because they stood to benefit more from the deal than GM. The synergy levels were significantly in favor of Renault and Nissan, Wagoner said, in contrast to Ghosn's projection of GM saving $10 billion annually if the deal went ahead. In effect, Wagoner demanded the equivalent of a dowry from Ghosn, who found the idea "ridiculous" since the market value of his companies' shares was higher than GM's.

At their meeting in Paris, Wagoner threw down another condition that was impossible for Ghosn to accept: the flexibility to form joint ventures with other auto companies. From the start, Ghosn had wanted a significant stake in GM that would have precluded other alliances. GM was wary about Renault-Nissan buying in, especially without payment of a premium. GM was willing to collaborate only on a project-by-project basis, not form a grand partnership.

Tough

Wagoner could talk tough with Ghosn as his turnaround plan was gaining traction. GM's second quarter results showed a 12 percent rise in revenue from the year-earlier quarter and sharp reductions in pension and other noncash costs. He knew that a complicated deal with Renault-Nissan would just distract GM from its restructuring program.

Meanwhile, Nissan's vehicle sales were slumping. Its operating profit fell 25.7 percent from the year-earlier quarter in the three months ended June and last August Nissan sales in the United States declined for the sixth straight month due to a dearth of new models. To arrest the decline, Nissan plans to roll out eight new models worldwide before March 31.

As for Renault, which is 15 percent owned by the French government, GM sees it as a parochial company producing idiosyncratic cars tailored to the French market with little of GM's technological prowess. In China, the world's fastest growing car market, Renault is not even a player and Nissan has a small presence compared to GM's dominant position. But Ghosn counters that Renault is a profitable company with a strong balance sheet and a market capitalization above $30 billion, nearly twice GM's $17.3 billion market cap.

Fend off Toyota

Renault-Nissan tried to convince GM that their companies had to find a way to fend off Toyota from becoming the world's No. 1 automaker. But GM executives see Toyota as only one rival among several. GM won't enter an alliance just to beat Toyota—only if it is in the best interest of GM shareholders.

Perhaps American pride had something to do with the death of the deal. As a New York Times editorial noted back in July, there was a lot of debate about allowing control of GM, the venerable American industrial icon, to slip into foreign hands.

More likely, the talks ended because Renault-Nissan would win more savings from systems integration than GM, which already has a global system for IT and product development. Unlike GM, Renault and Nissan also do not have heavy-duty truck platforms in the United States or hybrid vehicles.

As we go to press, Kerkorian's representative Jerome York was reported to have resigned from GM's board. York disputed Wagoner's statement that he supported the board's decision to end the talks with Renault-Nissan. *(With reports from AP, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal)*

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If it's too loud, you're too old.

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@yahoo.com.

MOTORSCOPE

MOMENT OF VICTORY

Fernando Alonso (center) shares his moment of victory at the Japanese GP with the Mild Seven Renault team. As the 2006 F1 season comes to a close on Oct. 22 in Brazil, Fernando Alonso now has a 10-point lead over rival Michael Schumacher in the Drivers' title, while Mild Seven Renault leads Ferrari by nine points in the Constructors' title.

New Kia Sportage

COLUMBIA AUTOCAR CORP., MANUFACTURER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF KIA IN THE PHILIPPINES, recently unveiled its new mid-year car models at the Kia All Cars Show at the Fort Global City in Taguig City.

Highlighted by the introduction of the all-New Kia Sportage, the Kia All Cars Show presented the Korean car manufacturing giant's current lineup of vehicles—the Picanto, Rio, Sorento, Carnival and K2700—along with its future offerings—the new Carens and the luxury sedan, the Opirus.

The all-New Kia Sportage represents the Korean carmaker's reentry into the small SUV market.

The all-New Sportage is powered by a 2.0-liter Continuous Variable Valve Timing (CVVT) engine. This 16-valve, DOHC powerplant delivers 142 ps of power and 18.8 kg-m off torque to the front wheels. All this power is coursed through Kia's new 4-speed Shiftronic automatic transmission. This dual-mode transmission provides either full automatic mode for hassle-free gear changes or semiautomatic mode if the driver chooses control in gear changes.

All-new 2007 Mitsu Strada 4x4

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE ALL-NEW STRADA 4x4 pickup, the 4th generation of the L200 series. The previous Strada model introduced in 1997 was the best-selling 4x4 pickup for seven consecutive years.

The exterior styling of the all-new Strada creates a dynamic, road-hugging stance underlined by its bulging fender flares accentuated by its rugged and commanding front design which is similar to the Pajero Evolution's design identity. The Strada now measures 5,000 x 1,800 x 1,780 (length x width x height in mm).

The cabin space has considerably grown. The all-new Strada GLS' interior offers top-of-its-class comfort and convenience due to all-power amenities including the stylish dashboard, the first of its class 3-mode opening slide vent window, high-grade sport fabric seat, leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knobs, silver-painted center and power window control panels, auto climate control and a multi-information display monitor. Other amenities are high contrast meter cluster with silver accent rings, an FM/AM single in-dash CD/MP3 player that is iPod ready via its USB interface, ignition key cylinder illumination, door courtesy lamps, and a host of useful and convenient compartments.

It is equipped with the new 2.5-liter 4D56 Mitsubishi Direct Injection Diesel with Hyper Common Rail DOHC 16-valve Turbo Intercooled engine. Mitsubishi Motors says it has used the bore and stroke of "the proven and reliable" 4D56 engine and strengthened its internal components to withstand the additional power that results from the DOHC, 16-valve and direct injection hyper common rail system. Maximum power output from this 2.5-liter engine is at 136 PS at 3,500 rpm and maximum torque is 314 N-m at 2,000 rpm.

Scoot & Cycle Fest at Festival Mall

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE FESTIVAL SUPERMALL IN MUNTINLUPA CITY AS THRONGS OF SCOOTER buffs gather here for the 2006 Castrol-Scooterista Scoot & Cycle Festival from Oct. 13 to 15.

While featuring exciting contest and entertainment, the scooterfest will showcase the latest machines, original equipment and accessories from the country's leading scooter and riding gear distributors.

This 3-day festivity will also have one of the country's premier bands, "The Dawn" for live entertainment as Scooterista Magazine launches "Sagad the Scoot 2" contest on Oct. 14 while several up and coming bands take to the stage on Oct. 13 during the opening ceremonies.

The Sagad the Scoot 2 contest dares the country's scooteristas to send in pictures of their most trashed bikes via mail or e-mail to the Scooterista crew. The worst among them will win a complete makeover—from the engine to a brand-new paint job.

This year, the Scoot & Cycle Shoot-out competition has two categories—Scooter Shoot-out and Motorcycle Shoot-out—both of which are open to bikes that fit the criteria. Interested participants can register at Festival Supermall or at Scooterista Magazine, 2211 Leon Guinto, Malate Manila.

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Coty again

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS will see the beginning of the long and arduous testing process for the Car of the Year (Coty) awards. Looking back at the last two years, the notion that the organization and the award itself are both still around, in relative health, is honestly a pleasant surprise. So much could have gone wrong in the first two years of teething, but both luck and hard work are what seem to have seen the pioneering idea this far along. Well, more luck actually.

Admittedly, purpose is what drives any organization forward and there is a need to always keep our reasons for existing in focus and close to heart. It is so easy to get caught up in the stress, glitz and politics that are part and parcel of any large organization with broad goals. Coty and the Cagi) Car Awards Group Inc. core group are not exempt from these issues.

The most important reason

In Coty's case, all one has to do is remember that the most important reason for all the *pro bono* work, all the weekends spent in testing, is the consumer. Yes, you—the Filipino motorist—are the reason there is all the fuss and flourish about which cars are the year's best, which cars present real value in their segment.

This balance between assessing the basic fundamentals of cars and the need for some sort of market relevance and consumer protection is where the challenge of Coty really is. The significance of a car's contribution to the market is only seen in the context of its perceived purpose. There are those, like me, who would assess the automobile for what it is worth as a driving tool; how fast, how nimble, how solid, how quick. On the other side of the organization are those who take a less hard-line route to the same answers, asking how much, how frugal, how painless to maintain and how easy to use.

Neither these two schools of thought are solely the only way to go when assessing cars. How can I say this with any conviction and fervor? Am I saying that there needs to be a basic compromise in deciding what is best? Well, being an award that is supposed to hold the consumer in highest regard, yes the concessions that balance performance and practicality must be considered. The reasons are quite simple actually.

Exactly 99.9 percent of people who buy cars are limited by a single most important factor: budget. The rest (0.01 percent of the Filipino population) is lucky enough not to have to worry about what their rides cost. While Coty is also for these people who are not restricted by the humbling powers of the almighty peso, their needs are agreeably quite specialized. When choosing between cars that cost more than single-detached houses in decent neighborhoods, no amount of independent testing and opinion will deter a rabid billionaire from getting what he wants, what he believes is best for him.

The best of a segment

By Coty members being able to responsibly and shrewdly assess the ability and value of cars, it is my hope that the Filipino making a choice about what AUV will become his family's or business' workhorse can be steered in the right direction. His personal preferences and wants are his own, but at least a suggestion of what really stands out in the market can be made, for whatever represents the best of a segment.

First-time car owners might actually be the best to benefit from all that Coty tries to achieve, but in the end maybe even some old dogs, with blind brand loyalty, can be made to see the light. If the consumer's mind is opened to the possibilities beyond their comfort zone, then again, all the work and sacrifice are truly worth it. If the media can conscientiously assess without similar bias, then maybe the consumers will start to listen intently to what we have to say.

It is my wish that the founding spirit of Coty live on, not just for this year's proceedings but also for the editions in the foreseeable future. The need for relevance cannot be cast aside, as choosing the best is really just a matter of remembering what the consumer needs. For whom is this award really for?

Bold as some ideas may be on the drawing board for this year's testing, all that matters is that the Filipino motorist can be given an idea of how all the products stack up against each other. The decision to buy is ultimately theirs. After all, those are the choices that power the automotive industry.

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15 things to bring on a road trip

By Tessa R. Salazar

ALL SAINT'S AND All Soul's days are still three weeks away, but if you've been planning to go on a long drive to the provinces, now's a good time to start taking a second look at your car.

Now you're probably thinking, "Aw, here goes another 'friendly reminder' from the road safety freaks at INQUIRER Motoring." Yes, we know you've gotten quite familiar with our oft-repeated "Blowbaga" mnemonic (battery, light, oil, water, brake, air or tire, gas and accessories) prior to a long trip.

Let's make it different, this time, though. We asked some tips from people of different professions on what they think motorists should bring on a long drive. We asked doctors, mechanical engineers, tire experts, road safety educators, and even firefighters and a photographer. Here's what they told us:

1 **Your driver's license (not expired).** Needs no explanation, but you'll be surprised by how many drivers out there actually forget to bring their licenses with them.

2 **Detailed road map book with updated alternate routes.** This can prove handy when the usual routes are under repair and you need to plot an alternate route.

3 **Cameras—one digital and one film.** God forbid, but if any accident occurs—and it doesn't have to involve you—you're ready to image document the incident. You'll be helping traffic officers speed up the investigation. Having a camera cocked and ready to shoot may also help fill up your photo album with nice scenery shots.

4 **Mobile phone and mobile phone car charger.** Make sure that car charger works, though. And remember three numbers (well, actually, just two): 117. And while you're at it, bring a list of other emergency numbers of hospitals along your route and roadside assistance numbers.

5 Mechanical engineer Edwin Quiros of the University of the Philippines and mechanic/off-roader Olson Camacho suggests: **Bring an extra fan belt, lube oil, brake, coolant and transmission fluids, grease, "wipe-out" cleaner, rags and tissue, tow rope and jumper cables, and Swiss knife.**

6 From Bureau of Fire public information services chief Renato Marcial: **Bring first aid kit, and lots of drinking water and a portable fire extinguisher.**

7 LTO safety education chief Daisy Jacobo suggests motorists should bring **"a passenger with a good sense of humor and lots of patience.** The adage 'patience is a virtue' is relevant to the occasion because there are shooting incidents even in parking lots," she says.

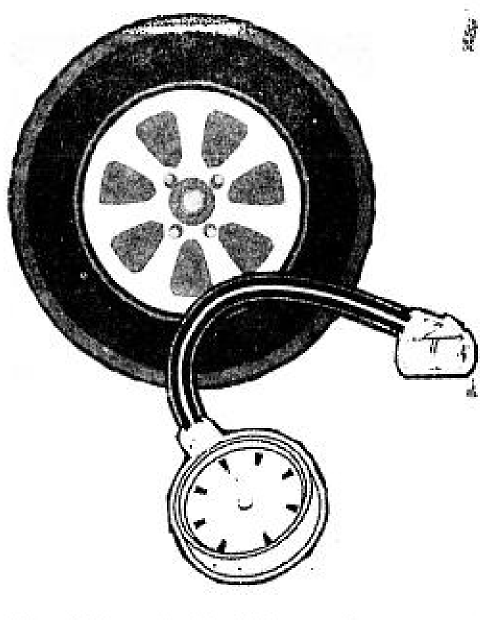
8 **If you're in a convoy of vehicles, CB radios/walkie-talkies for each vehicle (with spare batteries) would be helpful.** They spare you a lot of cellphone time and money, as well.

9 **Chewing gum and chocolates to keep you up and about while driving.**

10 **Emergency light with early warning device**

11 **Reflectorized vests for road visibility in case you and your passengers have to get out of the vehicle during an emergency.**

12 **Tire pressure gauge and spare tire.** Then, double check if have your spare tire and if that is still suitable for use. You may not be aware of it, but thieves may have already gone to town with your spare tires. Tires, in general, have a shelf life of five years before the rubber begins to deteriorate, according to Sammy Liuson of Wheel Gallery/ConceptOne. He says tire deterioration depends on the brand; some tires tend to crack earlier than the others. He adds that it would be wise to pressurize your tire to the maximum allowable (check your manual or ask your mechanic) if you will be traveling with a full load to protect your rims and tires from getting damaged. Have your four wheels aligned, while you're at it.

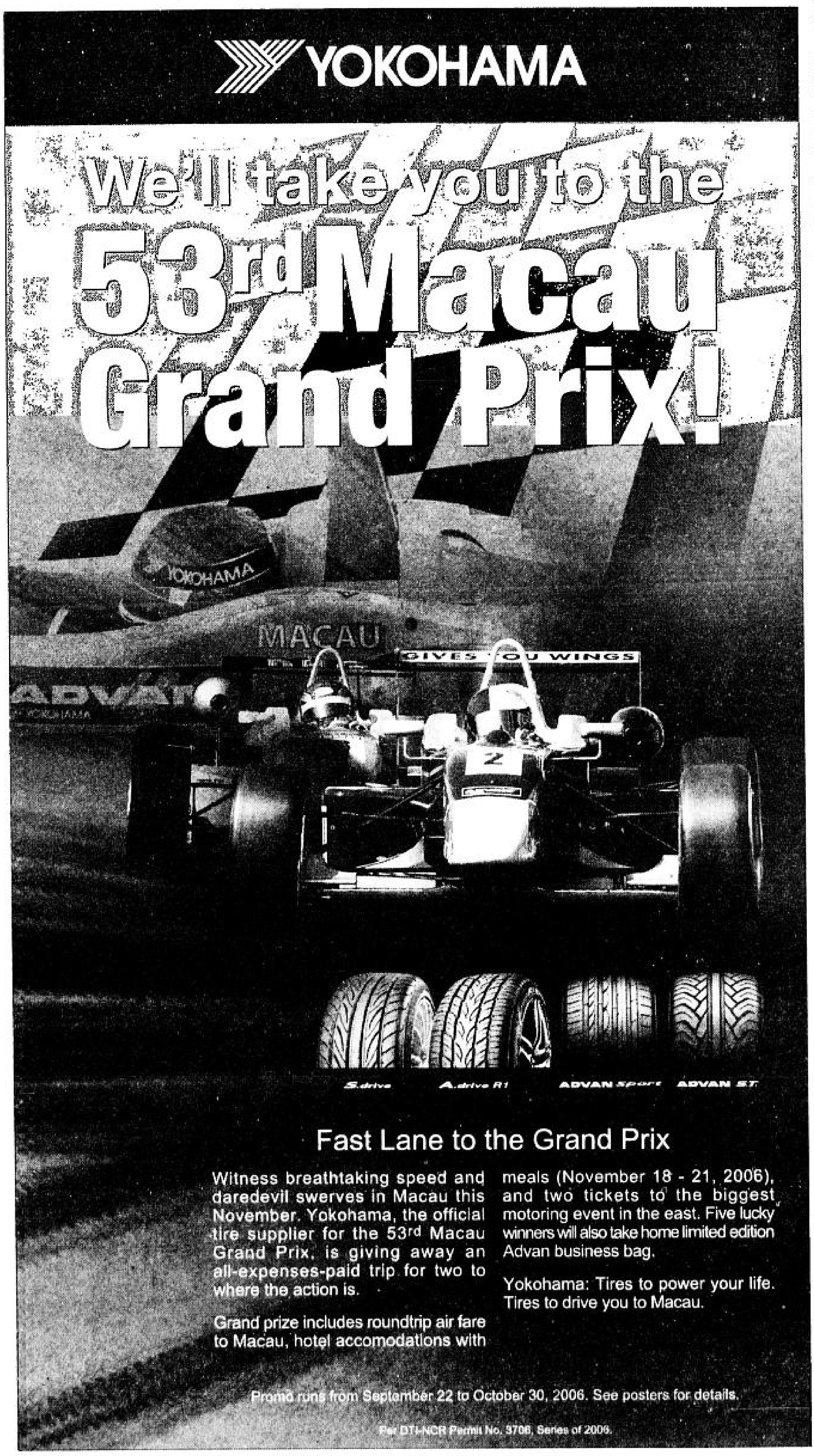


13 Pediatrician and gastroenterologist Juliet Sio Aguilar tells motorists to **bring antipyretics, or medication for fever, plus oral rehydration solution.** Aguilar adds that rather than salty junk food, one should prepare oatmeal bars, home meal cooked food to ensure these are safe to eat; sandwich and healthy snack bars; water instead of juice and chiller for fresh fruits. And don't forget a sanitizer and off-lotion, too. Aguilar adds that passengers should apply sunblock, wear a hat, and drink water every two hours.

And don't forget your CDs, snacks, umbrella and raincoat, extra clothes, kikay kit, playing cards, garbage bags, packaging tapes, hammocks and pillows, says Joseph Bautista, a vehicle engineer whose job is to drive thousands of kilometers around the country to test Isuzu vehicles and scout for the next adventure trail for his outdoor club.

14 **Self-defense tools (pepper spray or tear gas).** Guns? Better to leave them at home than bring them along. Cardiologist Raffy Castillo advises motorists to bring chewable aspirin just in case someone develops a heart attack, epinephrine shot for severe allergy/anaphylactic shock, hydrating solutions, melatonin or other sleep aids, antidiarrheal/analgesic.

15 **Your organ donation card.** Though this may sound morbid, but if something happens to you along the way, we can say it happened for a meaning. "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." We think that line from Semisonic's "Closing Time" best sums up this last item.



Fast Lane to the Grand Prix

Witness breathtaking speed and daredevil swerves in Macau this November. Yokohama, the official tire supplier for the 53rd Macau Grand Prix, is giving away an all-expenses-paid trip for two to where the action is.

Grand prize includes roundtrip air fare to Macau, hotel accomodations with meals (November 18 - 21, 2006), and two tickets to the biggest motoring event in the east. Five lucky winners will also take home limited edition Advan business bag.

Yokohama: Tires to power your life. Tires to drive you to Macau.

Promo runs from September 22 to October 30, 2006. See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3706, Series of 2006.

FLORA ATOS MATIAS

Wife of ***JOSE C. MATIAS (†)***
passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 7, 2006

She is survived by daughter **EMMA**, son **MILO**; son-in-law **MARTIN**, daughter-in-law **KAREN**, grandchildren **JEFF**, **MICHAEL** & **JONATHAN** as well as nephews & nieces & relatives.

They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A commemorative Mass will be held for her at a date to be announced later.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

FE TRINIDAD CABALLERO

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 30, 2006

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

> "I HAVE FOUGHT THE FIGHT,
> I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE,
> I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH."
> 2 TIM 4:7

MOISES DOMINGO BUSTOS FLORES

OF DALY CITY, CALIFORNIA and MACABEBE, PAMPANGA

Peacefully joined our Creator and his parents
MAYOR DOMINGO FLORES & MIGUELA FLORES
on October 2, 2006 at the age of 49.

His life and inspiration, loving wife **FELICITAS SALONGA-FLORES**; brothers and sisters: **NEPY** & **CITA**, **BOBONG** & **RUBY**, **DOMINGO JR.** (†), **CIRILO** & **ANNETTE BALGAN**, **PETER** & **LILING**, **PAUL** & **AIMEN**, **ALBERT** & **LADY**, **ARNEL** & **ISA MANANSALA**, **EDGAR** & **VILMA**, **DJ** & **MARIE BALUYUT**, **SYL**, **ARIEL**, **GEL**, SISTERS & BROTHERS IN-LAW, NEPHEWS, NIECES, GRANDCHILDREN, COUSINS, RELATIVES, FRIENDS request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their residence, Batasan, Macabebe, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 14, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Presentation of the Lord Parish, Batasan, Macabebe, Pampanga.

> *"My soul finds rest in God alone;*
> *My salvation comes from Him."*
> **Psalm 62:1**

Our Dearly Beloved Mama,

Delia Cuaderno Galan

Peacefully joined the Lord on
October 9, 2006 at the age of 89.

Beloved wife of the late **Enrique**, caring mother of **Diday** and **Nookie Barretto**; **Nonoy** and **Tonette**; **Tommy**, **Patchot**, **Chit**; **Rory** and **Peter Allsman**; **Vicky** and **Dofil De Villa**; **Martin** and **Michelle**; doting grandmother of **Angelo** and **Anton**; **Nino** and **Pinky**; **Sasa**; **Nick** and **Barbara**, **Rica**, **Carlo** and **Becky**, **Rizzie**; **Bunny**, **Mik-mik**, **Angelica**; **Robert** and **Richard**; **Diego** and **Ezekiel**; and loving great grandmother of **Isabella**; **Alex**, **Natalia** and **Juliana**; and **Rebekah**.

We request the pious reader to join them in prayer for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (Manila Memorial Park). Interment Mass shall be on October 12, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

ERRATUM

In the obituary of

PATERNA OLAIVAR-MARAPAO

who peacefully joined our Creator on 05 October 2006 published last October 10, 2006, the name of one of the grandchildren, **ALARICE GHISLINE**, was inadvertently printed as Alarice Christine.

Our apologies.

CLASSIFIEDS

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TO ALL OUR VALUED PATRONS:

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT ***LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC. (PAZ), HAS CEASED TO OPERATE ITS SERVICING FACILITY LOCATED AT ITS LEASED PREMISES IN 1501 CLARO M. RECTO, COR. T. MAPUA ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA, AFTER MIDNIGHT OF OCTOBER 01, 2006.***

ANY MEMORIAL SERVICE TRANSACTION ON THE SAID PREMISES BEYOND THE STATED DATE, WHICH MAY BE ENTERED BY ITS CURRENT OR FORMER COMPANY PERSONNEL SHALL NOT BE THE LIABILITY OF LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

WE SHALL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PROVIDE OUR FUNERAL AND OTHER MEMORIAL SERVICES AT ITS MAIN OFFICE IN 143 G. ARANETA AVE. COR. KALIRAYA ST., BGY. TATALON, STA. MESA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY. TEL. NOS. 712-3001/743-6502/743-6505/743-6508/732-4795 TRUNK NOS. 749-3806 TO 11.

Truly yours,

MELCHOR G. OCAMPO
President

(PDI - Oct 7 & 11, 2006)

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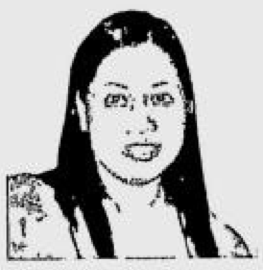

ELISA J. CRUZ

This is to inform the public that Ms. Elisa Cruz whose picture is shown above is no longer connected with Acer Philippines, Inc. and is therefore, not authorized to represent the company in any capacity whatsoever. Any transaction entered or will be entered by her on behalf of the company shall not be acknowledge and honored by the said company.

(PDI- Oct. 11, 2006)

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BUSINESS

Marina to shipowners: Consolidate or perish

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE ROLL-ON ROLL-OFF (RO-Ro) system may have cut interisland transportation costs by 45 percent, but shipowners must consolidate, instead of asking government for subsidies, if they are to survive competition with air and land transportation companies, according to the Maritime Industry Authority.

A report by the government Task Force on Infrastructure Monitoring said the largest transport savings were seen in the shipment of motorcycles from Metro Manila to the provinces. A shipment of 50 motorcycles used to cost P95,000 via traditional shipping. But deliveries using the RoRo system now come up to only P50,000 or 47 percent cheaper, giving firms a viable alternative in transporting products.

Of the 45 percent saved by the RoRo system, 30 percent comes from the government side through reduced tariffs for those using the system. But the industry is changing and subsidies will not be cost-effective for the industry or even shipping companies in the long term, said Vic Suazo, Marina general manager.

"Shipowners are not really competing against each other anymore," Suazo said at the sidelines of the APEC-sponsored intermodal skills seminar at the Bayview Park Hotel. "They are competing against airlines, bus lines and truckers for passenger and cargo. They have to change the individualistic way of doing business and help each other bring the cost of sea travel down in order to be competitive."

Among the steps Marina is encouraging shipowners to take is consolidate freight and coordinate with each other on moving cargo in bulk so that their freight vessels can maximize space.

"Right now, there is about 30 percent of capacity wasted," Suazo said.

Another step is to adopt code-sharing. This means that choice long routes, say from Batangas to Davao, will be broken up into segments served by the RoRo system, and companies can then negotiate among themselves who will serve which segment.

Marina, Suazo said, now wants to spearhead changes in the industry given the current situation. He said changes cannot be avoided and shipowners must think of ways in which they can sharpen their competitive edge.

"If not, we will be left behind," Suazo said in Filipino.

Net FDI hit $1.15B in 7 months

In July, inflows surged threefold to $158M

By Doris C. Dumlao

TETANGCO

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS from January to July this year breached the $1 billion-mark, fueled by rising optimism on the country's macroeconomic fundamentals, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

In a press statement, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the net FDI registered with his institution reached $1.15 billion for the first seven months of the year, up by 60.3 percent from the $720 million inflows posted in the same period last year.

For the month of July alone, the net FDI flows surged by more than threefold to $158 million from only $45 million a year ago.

"The country's strong economic fundamentals—such as improving fiscal performance and easing inflation rate—bolstered FDI during the review period," Tetangco said.

He expects the FDI to reach a sum of $1.9 billion by year's end.

Unlike portfolio investments which are more volatile, FDI flows represent investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are capital- and labor-intensive, such as those spent in building new factories, power plants and mining ventures.

Tetangco said the increase in FDI flows in the first seven months was due to the reversal of the "other capital" account, which posted a surplus of $773 million from a net outflow of $131 million seen a year ago.

Investors from the United States, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Singapore, Netherlands and South Korea pumped in the bulk of fresh investments.

Transactions in the "other capital" account—comprised essentially of intercompany borrowing or lending of funds between foreign direct investors and local subsidiaries, branches or affiliates—flowed mostly into automotive and electronic manufacturing businesses, the BSP chief said.

Net equity capital, while lower than the year-ago level, remained in surplus at $408 million during the seven-month period.

While FDI in the Philippines have significantly picked up this year, it still represents a meager share compared to roughly $60 billion in annual flows to East Asia.

The Philippines slipped in global competitiveness ranking by five notches to 126th out of 175 countries, according to the World Bank group's latest annual survey on ease in doing business.

The country lags behind Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand (18th), Malaysia (25th), Taiwan (47th) and even Vietnam (104th). But the Philippines is ahead of Indonesia (135th) in terms of overall ease in doing business.

"Now the challenge is to generate the climate that would lead to more investment, both domestic and FDI," World Bank Philippine country director Joachim von Amsberg said in a recent interview. "Investment rates in the Philippines are very low and need to go up for the country to grow ... not just based on consumption but based on productivity."

Bidders seek congressional franchise for Transco

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LACK OF AN ATTACHED CONgressional franchise, as well as unresolved right-of-way issues, have been discouraging investors from bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) 25-year concession.

Emerging from a recent conference involving various foreign chambers in the country, Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion said this was the general sentiment of foreign investors who had expressed at least some interest in participating in the Transco privatization process.

"Investors want a franchise attached to the concession'" Concepcion said. "They have to pay a lot of money, but then (the National Power Corp.) will continue to hold the franchise. That won't do."

He said he had gotten the same feedback from Singapore Power, the only company that participated in the two failed auctions for the Transco concession in 2003, as well as from big British, Canadian and Australian power firms.

The companies would have been interested in bidding for the Transco concession if a Congressional franchise were attached to it, he said.

Under the current scenario, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) would give the winning concessionaire 12 months to secure a Congressional franchise to operate, maintain and expand the nationwide transmission grid.

The franchise that Napocor held would not be transferred to the new concessionaire.

Concepcion said right-of-way issues also turned off investors from participating in the Transco auction.

"Investors want an assurance that the government will exercise its power of eminent domain in the building of transmission lines, in the same way that it was able to successfully handle the right of way (issues) for the Northrail Transit," Concepcion said.

He said investors did not want to risk investing a huge amount of money only to have it "sleep" for several years while waiting for the right-of-way issues to be resolved.

From the original 12, only three bidders submitted to PSALM their pre-qualification documents for the 25-year Transco concession.

VAT cap repeal seen to cost gov't ₱5B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DECISION OF CONGRESS TO repeal the 70-percent cap on value-added tax credits that businesses may claim is expected to cost the government an estimated P5.2 billion in lost revenue this year.

The lifting of the VAT cap, which now only requires the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo to take effect, means that businesses may now claim VAT credits in full every tax period.

The Department of Finance earlier estimated that the input VAT cap provision of the law was supposed to yield P6.9 billion in additional revenues for the government this year.

But the expected gains from the tax measure went up in smoke on Monday when the Senate decided to approve the House bill lifting the VAT cap.

The Senate did not have any amendments to the House version of the bill that lifted the VAT cap, making it unnecessary for legislators to conduct a bicameral conference committee meeting on the legislative measure.

The DOF said the government from January to July had so far collected P1.7 billion in additional revenues from the VAT cap. Following the repeal, the national government would have to forego the collection of P5.2 billion in the remaining months of the year.

Despite the expected revenue loss, the DOF said it supported the removal of the VAT cap provision in the VAT law.

The VAT cap was strongly opposed by members of the business community, who claimed that it would wreak havoc on the income-generating capacity of firms, especially those whose profit margins are only 30 percent or less.

The 70-percent VAT cap meant that the maximum amount of input VAT credits that any business may claim for every tax period is equivalent to 70 percent of its output VAT.

Input VAT is the amount of value-added tax shouldered by a taxpayer every time the person purchases goods or services whose costs already included the 12-percent VAT.

A taxpayer is allowed to deduct input VAT from its output VAT to determine his or her actual VAT liability.

Output VAT is the 12-percent tax imposed on the sales of a taxpayer.

Firms acquire mining permits

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has approved the mineral exploration permits of five mining firms.

DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday said that the permit issued to Canadian mining subsidiary MRL Gold Philippines Inc. covers a site measuring 316 hectares in the municipality of Malimono, Surigao del Norte.

Two exploration permits went to MRL's local partner, Egerton Gold Philippines Inc. The company will survey a combined area of 6,980 ha in the municipalities of Lobo and San Juan in Batangas.

"These new exploration permits will cover copper-gold drilling areas referred as the Calo and the Canago prospects," said James Anthony Climie, MRL Gold president.

Climie in a presentation said that the company over the next two years may allot a maximum of $1 million in new investments for the prospects.

Once the exploration bears fruit, the company will apply for a Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement that allows higher equity for foreign ownership.

Other mining companies that have filed mining permits are Bunawan Mining Corp., and a firm that belonged to an Estrella Bautista, according to DENR documents.

Bautista's firm is a partner of MRL Gold and will take on areas in Agusan del Norte and Batangas, the documents showed.

"The issuance of the new permits sends a clear signal to investors that the government's revitalization program for mining is on track," Reyes said.

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
HANSHIN AIR CARGO (PHILS.) CO. LTD Unit 107 2/F JJM II. Bldg., 3963 Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque City	Hirofumi Utsumi	General Manager and Chief Representative
EAGLES FORTUNE INC. 625 Barcelona Street, Tondo, Manila	Moubo Xu	Assistant General Manager
GLAMOUR PLUS NAIL ART & FACIAL SERVICE CO. Unit 202, 2/F, Josefa Bldg., 1750 M. Adriatico St., Malate Manila	Yongmei Wei	Technician Consultant
MORE FAST NETWORK COMMUNICATION CORP. Rm. 201, JKK Pacific Bldg., 1689 J. Bocobo St., Malate Manila	Won Woo Lee	President
EAGLES FORTUNE INC. 625 Barcelona Street, Tondo, Manila	Huiyu Li	Supervisor
OPSEC INTERNATIONAL GROUP INC. 2/F, Autoland Bldg., 1616 Quezon Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City	Hunter Dean Zachary Haynes	Managing Director
OPSEC INTERNATIONAL GROUP INC. 2/F, Autoland Bldg., 1616 Quezon Ave., South Triangle, Quezon City	Keith A. Nichols	Operations Supervisor
JT SUCCESS TRADING INCORPORATED U-321 Sea Front Garden, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Dipakbhai Govindram Fabiani	Technical Operation Manager
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT INC. Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Yunfeng Li	Kitchen Artist

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

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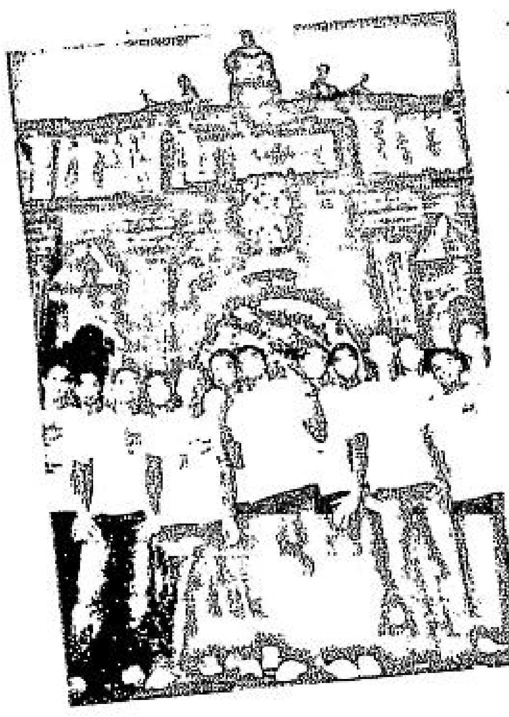
Champions!

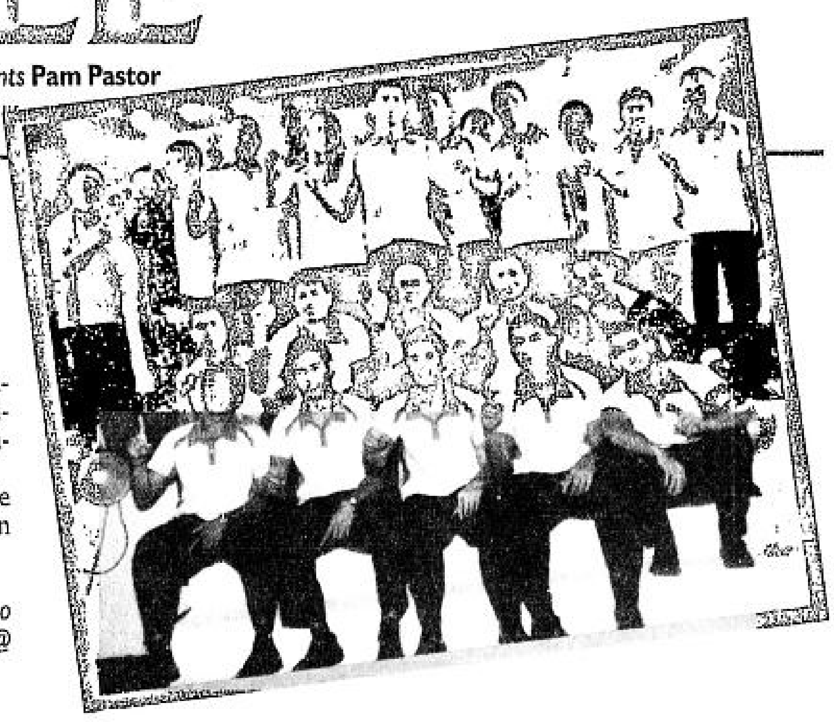


They made you scream, they made you cheer, they made your hearts race and in some cases, they even made you shed tears

2bU! dedicates this issue to the UST Growling Tigers and the San Beda Red Lions, champions of the hardcourt in the most recent season of the UAAP and the NCAA.

Get to know the Tigers and the Lions of the school jock jungle and discover their passion for basketball and beyond.

(And if you want your school personalities to be featured in our pages, e-mail Ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph)



From certain disaster to miracle victory

Text by Ruth L. Navarra and Patrick Leonard M. Mayo
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE UST GROWLING TIGERS had the perfect recipe for a disastrous season.

Their last Final Four appearance was four years ago. Their team was composed mostly of rookies and sophomores with not much experience and exposure to rely on.

A promising rookie, John Lee Apil, died of electrocution after saving two kids last April.

Jemal Vizcarra, the man they expected to carry the scoring cudgels, was sidelined the entire season due to an ACL tear incurred midway through their opening game against the UP Fighting Maroons.

But the biggest punch line of them all was they were led by a rookie coach, Pido Jarencio, a former UST Glowing Goldie who was denied championship titles during his own stint as player in the '80s.

The odds were against the Tigers.

Then, they got their first taste of victory from the defending champions FEU Tamaraws and the heavily favored UE Red Warriors. This made the nonbelievers take a second look at the young team.

The expectations were short-lived as they dropped their next four games. The most devastating loss was against the Ateneo Blue Eagles. It was the Eagles' most lopsided victory with a 36-point advantage.

After the first round of eliminations, the team found themselves scraping the bottom of the team standings.

Everybody thought the season was over for the Tigers. Well, almost everybody, except for Coach Jarencio. He rallied his team by instilling in them three values, his "three P's—Puso, Pride and Palaban."

"Mind you, it has to be in that order. The heart always comes first," explained team captain Allan Evangelista.

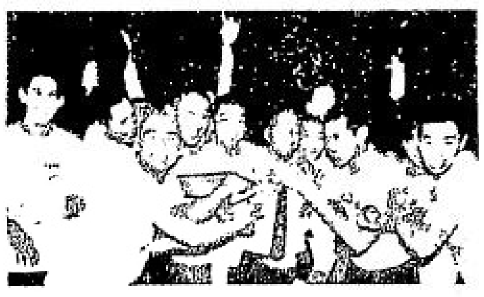
Unmindful of the team standings in the league, the Tigers took one game at a time, chalking three straight victories. The sweetest of these was an overtime victory against the seemingly invincible Eagles who had an immaculate 8-0 record and were gunning for a school record of nine straight wins.

The Tigers won that game without their main men—Jojo Duncil, Anthony Espiritu and backup point guard Jun Cortez—who had contracted typhoid fever!

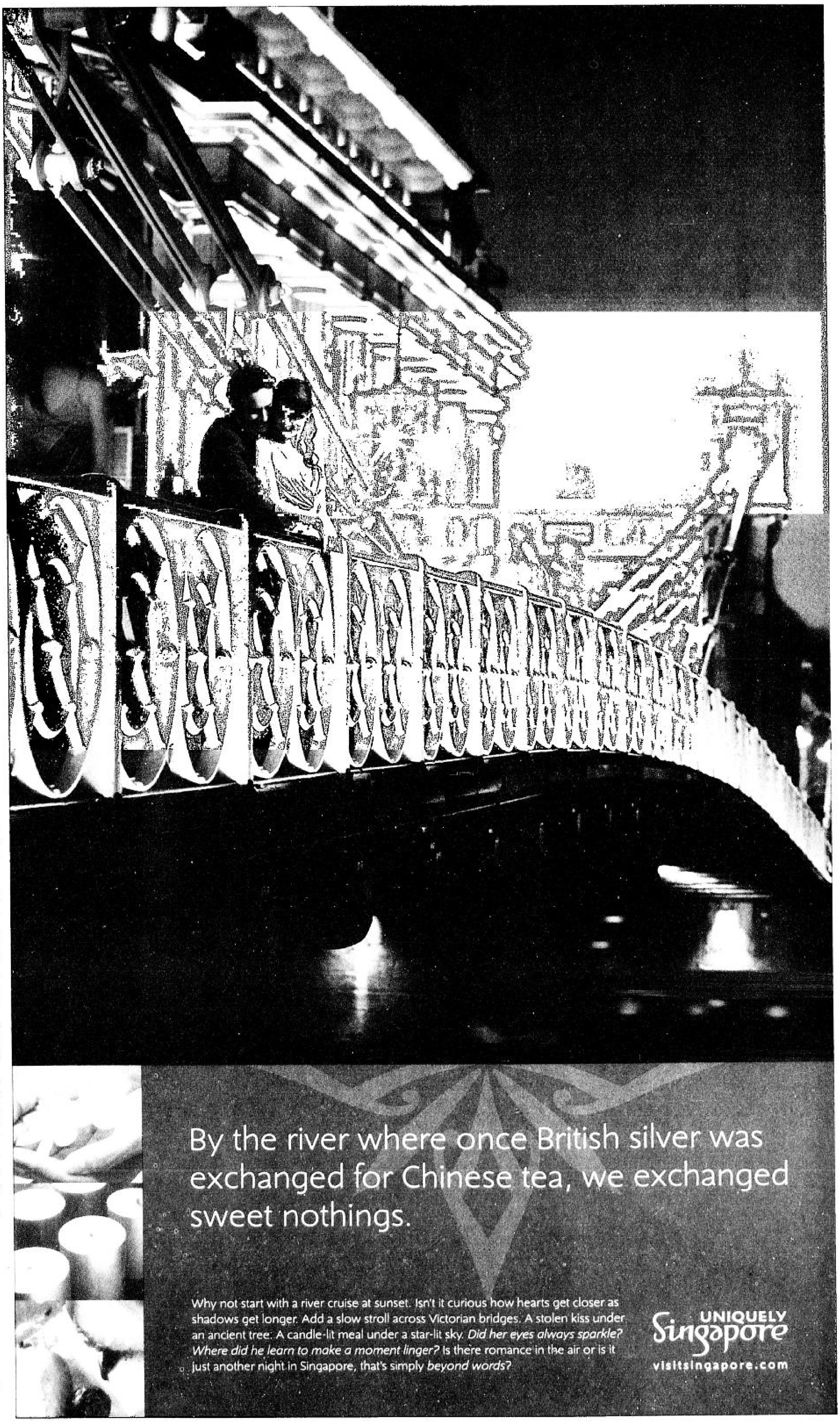
Clearly, it was a message sent to the entire league not to dismiss them just yet. They got into the Final Four after battling it out with the Adamson Falcons to clinch the third spot and avoid a premature meet-up with the top-seeded Blue Eagles.

With their backs against the wall, they defeated the Red Warriors who had a twice-to-beat advantage. They barged into the Finals for the first time in seven years.

FROM CERTAIN/ C2



BOYS WILL BE BOYS. While all the girls wanted to have a piece of them, the guys just wanted to have their photo taken with a campus guard they called "Chris Tucker."



By the river where once British silver was exchanged for Chinese tea, we exchanged sweet nothings.

Why not start with a river cruise at sunset. Isn't it curious how hearts get closer as shadows get longer. Add a slow stroll across Victorian bridges. A stolen kiss under an ancient tree. A candle-lit meal under a star-lit sky. *Did her eyes always sparkle? Where did he learn to make a moment linger?* Is there romance in the air or is it just another night in Singapore, that's simply *beyond words?*

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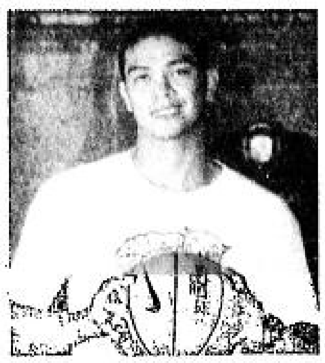
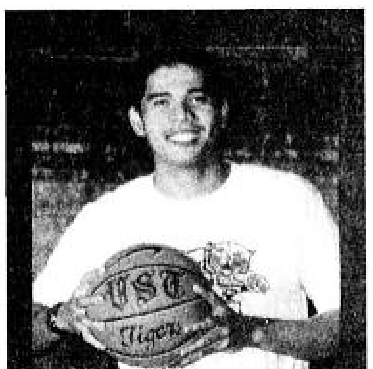


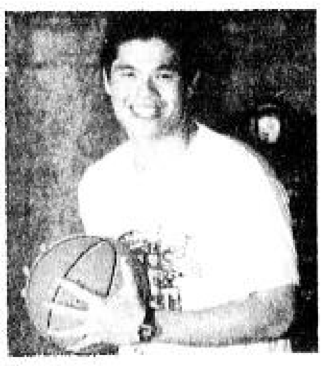
Joselito "Jojo" Duncil

Age: 25
Course: AB Sociology
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To have pride and to fight
Biggest lesson from this season: Don't get overconfident.
Basketball idol: Allen Iverson
Personal MVP: Ken Bono
What's your ultimate basketball dream: To enter the PBA
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Sleeping
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? School or home
What makes a champion team? Hard work and sacrifice



Jervy Cruz

Age: 20
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 20
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship and when I got into the Mythical Five
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To work hard and to fight
Biggest lesson from this season: A lot of things could happen in a second.
Basketball idol: Mark Canlas
Personal MVP: Mark Canlas
Ultimate basketball dream: To get into the PBA
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Studying, really. Math is my favorite subject.
What makes a champion team? Discipline, pride and hard work

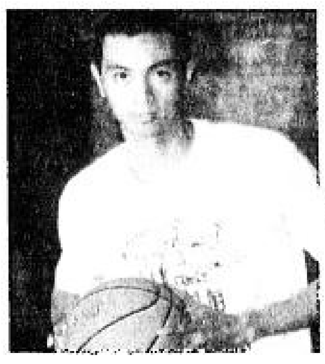


Allan Evangelista

Age: 24
Course: AB Economics
Jersey number: 21
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? The three "P's"—"Puso, Pride and Palaban"
Biggest lesson from this season: Learn how to avoid fouls
Basketball idol: James Yap
Personal MVP: Jojo Duncil
What's your ultimate basketball dream: To get into the PBA
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? I would probably be a seaman right now. That was my original plan.
What makes a champion team? Teamwork and respect for one another

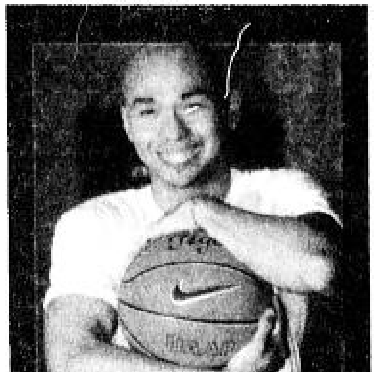
Dylan Ababou

Age: 19
Course: AB Behavioral Science
Jersey number: 6
Team position: Guard/ Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When I scored 22 points in Game 2 in this year's Finals
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Once you step on the court, you must put it in your mind that you're the best player there and no one can stop you.
Basketball idol: Scottie Pippen
Personal MVP: Jojo Duncil
Ultimate basketball dream: To be an NBA All-Star
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: My family. I like being with them.
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At school and at home
What makes a champion team? Work as one unit with hard work, desire, dedication and love.



Anthony Espiritu

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 11
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When I scored my career high of 31 points against the FEU Tamaraws
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Never lose faith, don't give up, and hard work is the key to success. You should die trying.
Biggest lesson from this season: Don't back down from the challenges.
Basketball idol? Mark Canlas
Personal MVP: Mark Canlas
Ultimate basketball dream? Michael Jordan asking for my photo and autograph
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? In a fast-food restaurant with my girlfriend



Japs Cuan

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 18
Team position: Point guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When I hugged my parents after we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? The "Never Say Die" attitude
Biggest lesson from this season: A second could spell the difference between winning and losing.
Basketball idol: Mac Cuan
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
What's your ultimate basketball dream: Play the pro league and then to represent our country in an international tournament
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: I love to sing. My favorite song is Queen's "We Are the Champions."
What makes a champion team? A team that never loses hope

From certain disaster to miracle victory

From page C1

At the last second of Game 1 of the Finals, the Thomasian community was celebratory with a one-point edge over Ateneo. But the Eagles' coach Norman Black knew that a second in basketball was still an eternity.

Making use of a play dating back to his coaching days in the pro-league, he pulled off a stunner courtesy of a wide-open lay-up from forward Doug Kramer to snatch the victory.

But the Tigers bounced back from the heartbreaking loss with a convincing win in Game 2 to force a rubber match.

"During the Finals, there was no pressure at all for us. Maybe because Coach Pido said at that point, we had nothing to lose," said Evangelista.

At the final minute or so of the fourth quarter of Game 3, almost half of those who wore yellow at the Araneta that day, sat back and prayed. The Eagles were leading and the Tigers just lost their big men, Jervy Cruz and Evangelista, due to foul trouble.

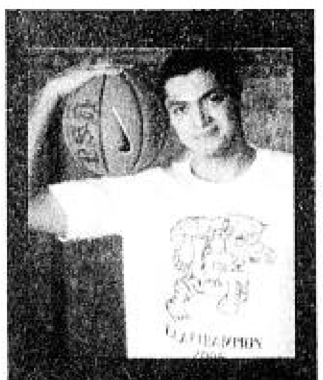
But the steady hands of Duncil and Espiritu lifted the Tigers and forced an overtime. With the two teams entangled in a seesaw battle, the Tigers' composure was tested as they had to earn the final two winning points in the free-throw line, an area where they struggled the entire series!

> The UST Tigers defy the worst odds and the worst breaks to win the UAAP championship and capture the hearts of a people always rooting for the underdog and the unlikely hero

It was a fairytale finish for a team that had to claw their way to the top. Ask any of them what did it and they will uniformly answer that it was their "faith in God, hard work and big hearts."

E-mail the authors at rnavarra@inquirer.com.ph and aj_collector@yahoo.com.

MANY THANKS TO REV. FR. ISIDRO C. ABANO, O.P. PROF. GIOVANNA V. FONTANILLA, COACHES PIDO JARENCIO AND RHUEL ACOT, SHIERYL LYN S. MORONA



June Dizon

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 10
Team position: Power forward
Favorite UAAP moment: The last four seconds of the clock in the fourth quarter in Game 3
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? The winning attitude. The three "P's"—"Puso, Pride, Palaban"
Biggest lesson from this season: You don't get everything easily. You must work hard for it.
Who is your basketball idol? Pido Jarencio
Pick your own UAAP MVP: Ken Bono
What makes a champion team? Hard work, pride, love and loyalty to the school

Mark Canlas

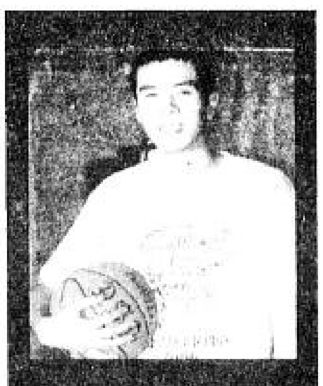
Age: 20
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 7
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: Winning the championship, what else could be sweeter?
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Courage and pride
Biggest lesson from this season: Always respect your opponents
Who is your basketball idol? Dirk Nowitzki
Personal MVP: Jojo Duncil
Ultimate basketball dream: To make it in the NBA. Impossible is nothing.
What makes a champion team? A team with players willing to sacrifice and accept both small and big roles

Chester Taylor

Age: 17
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 17
Team position: Forward center
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Never give up.
Biggest lesson from this season: Learn how to be patient and to work hard.
Basketball idol: LeBron James
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
Ultimate basketball dream: To reach the pros
When you're not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At home, spending time with my family
What makes a champion team? Determination and sacrifice

Jun Cortez

Age: 23
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 12
Team position: Point guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we celebrated with our fellow Thomasians
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Never give up. Play the game with all your heart
Biggest lesson from this season: If we give our everything, we could work our way to the top.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Personal MVP: Ken Bono
Ultimate basketball dream: To win another championship before I move up to the pros
What makes a champion team? A team with members who know how to step up when the others are down



AC Marquez

Age: 17
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 5
Team position: Shooting guard
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship for Season 69
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? There is no pressure. Play with our hearts, pride and always be ready to fight.
Biggest lesson this season: You can achieve anything with heart and hard work.
Basketball idol: Dwyane Wade
Personal MVP: Jervy Cruz
Ultimate basketball dream: To play for the PBA
What makes a champion team? Trust your teammates.

Francis Allera

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce (Business Administration)
Jersey number: 16
Team position: Small forward
Favorite UAAP moment: When we won the championship
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? To be a champion, act and play like one.
Biggest lesson from this season: Being at the bottom place doesn't mean you can't get back up.
Basketball idol: Shawn "The Matrix" Marion
Personal MVP: JC Intal
Ultimate basketball dream: To play in the NBA All-stars
What makes a champion team? Hard work, desire and heart

Mel Gile

Age: 21
Course: BS Commerce
Jersey number: 9
Team position: Forward
Favorite UAAP moment: After we won, we came back to school to celebrate with our fellow Thomasians.
What's the most important thing your coach taught you? Play the game with heart and passion.
Basketball idol: Carmelo Anthony
Pick your own UAAP MVP: Ken Bono
What's your greatest passion next to basketball: Sleeping. It's the only thing I want to do when I'm not playing.
What makes a champion team? A team whose members know when to step up when others are down

JESUITS VS DOMINICANS

Battle of the millennium

By Eldric Paul Peredo
2bU! Contributor

IF YOU THINK THE RECENTLY concluded championship series of the UAAP senior cage wars was exciting but nothing more, then you haven't looked closely. You've just witnessed the culmination of a Holy War that has been raging, albeit silently, for more than half a millennium.

It wasn't just a basketball game last Oct. 2. It was the determined Dominicans going for broke against the mighty Jesuits in a classic war between two of the Church's greatest religious orders.

Everyone knows that the Counter-reformation in the 16th century stirred up a storm in Rome. But what everyone does not know is in the thick of debates over the sticky issue of God's saving grace vis-a-vis man's free will, a wedge was driven between two camps within the Church.

The younger (practically a spry newborn at that time) Jesuits (the Society of Jesus, or SJ) favored a more liberal interpretation on grace and free will that could suit the Protestants and possibly bring them to a reconciliation with Holy Mother the Church.

But the Dominicans (the Order of Preachers or OP) opted to stick with the stricter, more traditional Thomist teachings. (The Angelic Doctor and foremost philosopher-theologian of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, being a Dominican himself, had nothing to do with that).

> The UAAP cage wars were a proxy battle between the Church's two most powerful religious orders

The arguments got hotter and spread across Catholic Europe, wherever bastions of the two orders were located, until finally, the matter was referred to the Vatican near the end of the 16th century. Pope Sixtus V, however, merely ordered the two camps to stop squabbling and wait for a decision.

But the decision of Rome, which would have been held true likewise in heaven per the promise of the Christ, never came. And so the heat of the debates abated but the rivalry has lived on.

Power players

Perhaps because Ignatius was a soldier, the Jesuits became militants and close to the papacy and to the corridors of power. They became adept at power play that they sometimes got their fingers burnt.

In the 18th century, Clement XIV (no, he was not a Dominican but a Franciscan who was ironically Jesuit-schooled), suppressed the Jesuits. But Pius VII restored them in 1814.

Despite their closeness to the papacy, the Jesuits never got around to having one of their own occupy the papacy. In contrast, the Dominicans have become popes—and great ones, too.

It was the Dominican Pope Pius V who called for troops under Don Juan of Austria to check the advancing Muslim Turks in the famous Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Despite being outnumbered by the mighty Ottoman forces, the Christians miraculously won and saved Europe from Islam.

Pius V attributed that victory to the intercession of Mary through the praying of the Rosary, which of course was the devotion said to be given by the Blessed Mother herself to St. Dominic and is propagated up to now by the Dominicans.

Pius V was called by the Jesuits the "inquisitorial" Pope for having been originally with the Holy Office of Inquisition. But he was canonized and is now called "St. Pius V"! So there.

Closer to home, in 1646, when the Protestant Dutch came up with a powerful armada from Indonesia to invade the Philippines, Spaniards and Filipinos converted two merchant ships on Manila Bay and foiled the invasion dramatically, in what we know now as the Battle of La Naval. The victory was also attributed to the power of prayer, specifically to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, whose devotion was propagated by the Dominicans of Sto. Domingo Church.

The historic battle continues to be lavishly commemorated up to now by the Dominicans in the grand La Naval procession in Quezon City every second Sunday of October.

Proxy war

Then the UAAP came. The University of Santo Tomas deliberately pulled out of the NCAA in 1938 to help create the new UAAP. It took Jesuit-run Ateneo until 1978 to join the UAAP cage wars. And it took some time before they secured a dominant position in a league that had Dominican origins. But the thing is, they did.

And UST? For a decade since UST's fantastic run in UAAP basketball in the mid-'90s, it seemed to languish in obscurity despite perennially winning the UAAP general championship. It couldn't be helped: Most people still think of UAAP as basketball and nothing more, period.

Then came this season. At the start of the tournament, the Tigers were billed last. *Kulelat!* As for the Ateneo Blue Eagles? Well, they were soaring at No. 1.

But when the eliminations smoke cleared, the Eagles found themselves confronting the Tigers. Even the Tigers were surprised they reached the finals.

While Game 2 was raging, the 5:15 p.m. anticipated Mass at UST's Santissimo Rosario Parish Church was being celebrated by Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, the UST rector during the Tigers' "four-peat" run in the '90s. And since it was an anticipated Mass, it was a Mass meant for the next day, Oct. 1, the first day of the Month of the Holy Rosary!

It was Lepanto and La Naval all over again!

We all know how that game turned out. The Tigers massacred the Eagles, extending the series to the penultimate third game, in which the warring Thomasian and Atenean camps, and the rival Dominican and Jesuit orders, called on God, Mary and all the saints to deliver the battle for them.

But apparently, the Thomasians and Dominicans prayed harder—they even got John Paul the Great as a partisan. That, too, was ominous for the Jesuits and Ateneans: John Paul II was a student of the Dominicans in Angelicum in Rome and was close to the Dominicans of Poland! What was more, he visited UST twice!

The rest is history.

And that, folks, is how the OP-SJ rift that began in the 16th century over Protestant propositions on grace and free will has finally been resolved. Despite their severe inadequacies, the Tigers—and the Dominicans and Thomasians—willed themselves to win! And with free will came grace, lots of grace, what the beautiful UST Hymn calls "unending grace."

Ultra event honors ultra special personalities

THE PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF SIX countries to hold the Ultra Honours celebration, in a regional move by Samsung Electronics to celebrate the lives of equally inspirational and unconventional personalities that personify Samsung's newly launched Ultra Edition mobile phones.

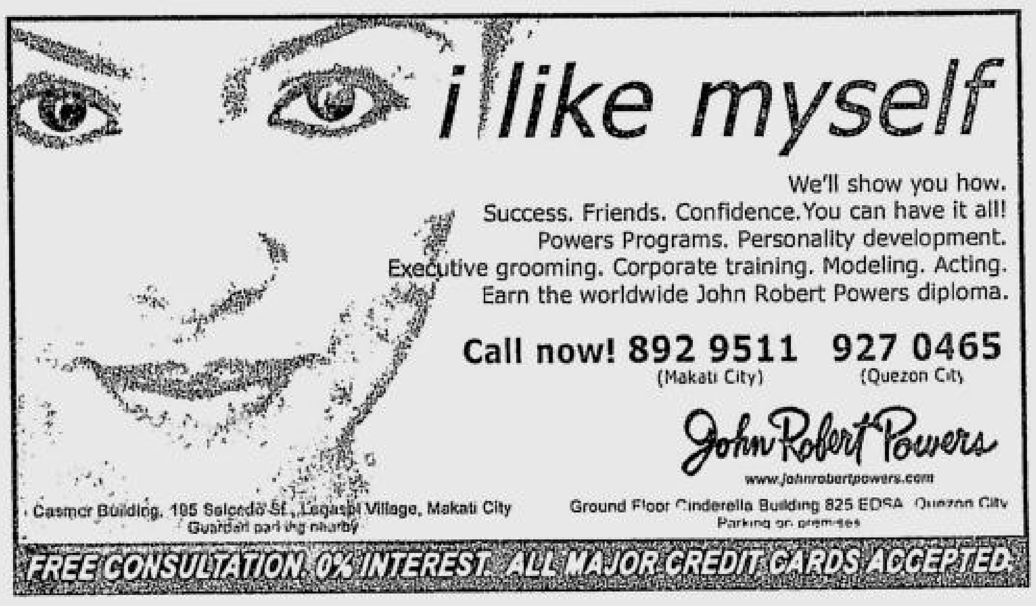
The Ultra Honours celebration makes a stop in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam with their own inspiring talents.

"Ultra living begins when the demands of life and technology collide to give birth to unlimited possibilities," says Spencer Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

"In the same way, the Ultra Edition mobile phones redefine communication, technology and lifestyle to cater to all that make up our everyday living—bridging gaps and ignoring boundaries" says Samsung's VP for information communications technology Charles Choi.

The Ultra lifestyle is defined as having gone beyond life's ordinary limits, ignoring boundaries and achieving success beyond expectations.

To be honored at an exclusive Ultra Event today in Rockwell Tent, Makati City are fashion designer Randy Ortiz and artist/philanthropist Joanne Zapanta-Andada.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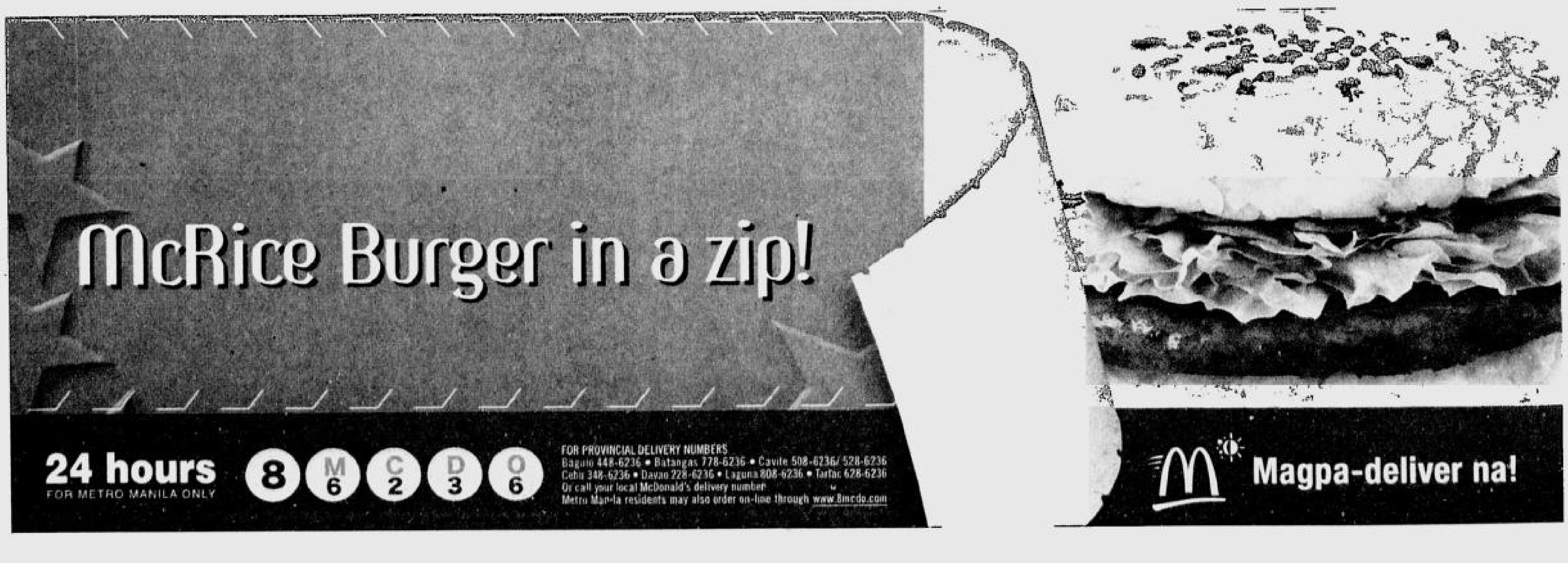
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Metro Manila residents may also order on-line through www.8mcdo.com
Magpa-deliver na!

Bee Gees at the Big Dome

WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT, you've had a Bee Gees song stuck in your head at one time or another.

"How Deep Is Your Love," "Stayin' Alive," "Emotions," "More Than a Woman," "Night Fever," "Don't Throw It All Away"—which one was it?

If you love the Bee Gees, you're in for a treat. Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees will perform the "Bee Gees' Greatest Hits Live" at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 25, 8 p.m.

Tickets priced at P6,000, P4,500, P3,000, P1,500, P500 (plus Ticketron charge) are now available at SM Ticketnet outlets. Call 3742222, 3749999 or 9115555.

Super sale with super bargain

ROBINSONS MALLS WILL HOLD ITS LAST big sale event Oct. 13-15. Expected to be the biggest sale of the year, Robinsons Malls "October Super Sale" will be giving away super bargains of up to 70-percent discount. Shopping on the first day will be up to midnight plus two more days of shopping on regular mall hours. Perking up the Robinsons chainwide super sale are the RX 93.1 jocks who will be updating their listeners with what's happening at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila; 101.1 Yes-FM DJs will be doing their remote updates from Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Dasmariñas.

Drops of Life

BAWAT PATAK, MAHALAGA

In everything that you do, you give drops of yourself. Your effort. Your time. Your sweat, commitment and passion. You do this for a reason: to get the most out of every experience and to live life to the fullest.

That is why, with each and every drop of energy that you share, The Coca-Cola Company endeavors to give those drops back not only through a myriad of products that answer your needs but also through various programs that aim to educate and provide proper nutrition to communities.

MORE THAN QUENCHING THIRST

We know The Coca-Cola Company as the maker of the well-loved Coca-Cola. But it is more than just that. It's an organization dedicated to the Filipino consumer. As it offers a wide portfolio of beverages, The Coca-Cola Company also supports programs that provide education, promote a healthy lifestyle and protect the environment. These programs help a number of individuals and families here and around the world.

EVERYONE DESERVES A SN

ıgs bett lt

ha oi

ol you

The Coca-Cola Com ny
bawat patak, mahalaga

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga

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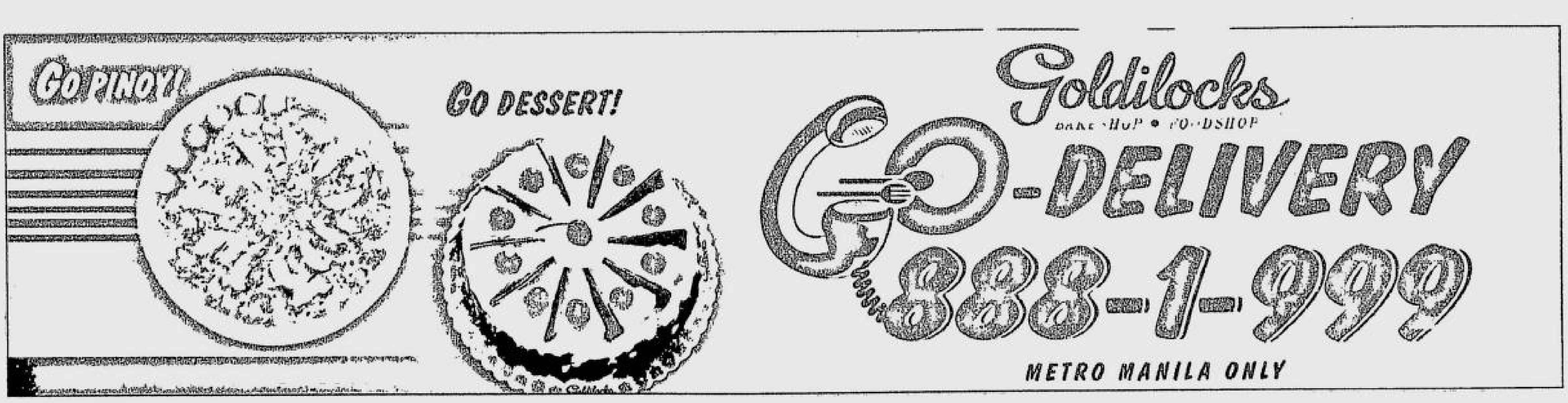

MAS AMOY
ANG LASA
NEW NESCAFÉ Classic

WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 11, 2006
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3 (Smart)

NESCAFÉ
MAS LASAP
ANG AROMA

Lion hearts

San Beda's triumphant win in the NCAA finals broke a 28-year title drought

Text by Bianca Consunji
2bUI Correspondent
Photos by Wacky Gochoco

HERE IS A TEAM SO TIGHTLY bonded that when you ask a question, each player gives the same answer. Ask them what their winning formula is, and they automatically reply, "Focus, have a good attitude, have the desire to win, and pray."

A talk with their coach, Koy Banal (formerly of Far Eastern University in the UAAP) reveals why these players are so united that they think alike, share the same jokes, come from the same course, and at some point, even start to look alike, save for Nigerian import and the league's Most Valuable Player, Samuel Ekwe.

"From the first team meeting, this has been our guiding principle: Have faith in God, faith in ourselves, and faith in one another. Faith, hard work, and the right attitude—a positive attitude—will win the game."

The victory was especially sweet as it was San Beda's first time to win the championship in 28 years. Back when Banal was still coaching the FEU Tamaraws, some San Beda alumni approached him for help. A Bedan himself, Banal moved to his alma mater when his contract with FEU expired.

Many credit San Beda's win to Banal's coaching, but he shrugs off the praise.

"When I came in, we were practically using the same system—motion defense—as the previous coach, Nash Racela. There were no major changes, as you cannot facelift anything overnight. I told them to have faith in Coach Nash's ability."

"I came in the middle of last year's season," he recalls. "We had our last game on Aug. 27, 2005. Then I gave the team three days off and we came back to train in September for next year's season. I told them, if they wanted to be in the championship, they had to work hard."

There were other obstacles as well. Banal found himself burdened with the task of trimming down the team to 15 players from the original 18, and decided to wait and see how to go about it. Then, during a team-building session in Cebu, he prayed to God to guide him in choosing the players to eliminate from the lineup. Eventually, one player bolted from the team to transfer to La Salle, another didn't make the grade cutoff, and another fractured his ankle a week before the tournament.

"There was simply no way around it. God's hand was there to guide me. You cannot eliminate God from the equation," he says.

The championship resulted in a tremendous response from the students and the alumni. The campus of San Beda in Mendiola is full of students wearing championship-related merchandise: shirts, buttons, jackets, stickers, etc.

Despite this, the players remain grounded. With the championship tucked safely under their belt, the San Beda Lions have gone past their previous win and are now focused on the next season.

Banal tells his team, "You made the noise; you made history. Now it's time to move on."

"Of course we want to win more championships," he adds. "But this is just a preparation for the bigger things in life. Everything has a purpose; God gave me this opportunity to be a teacher, a guide, and a molder to them. There is still a lot of things to teach, and a lot of things to learn on both sides."

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE D3

BIGGEST FANS. SBCAA president Dr. Conrad Oca, MVP, Fr. Tarsi Narciso, Fr. Anscar Chupungco and Fr. Raul de Vera

DANCING at San Beda's victory party

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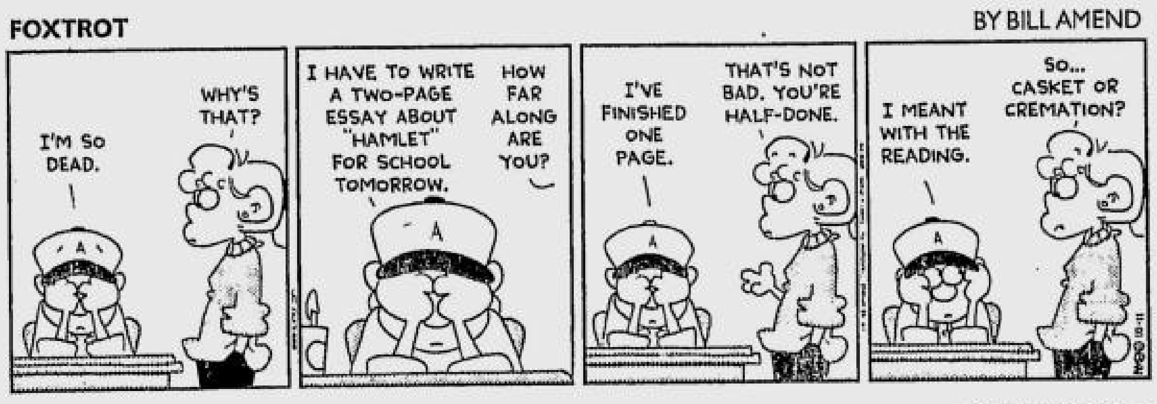
See mechanics posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3474 Series of 2006.

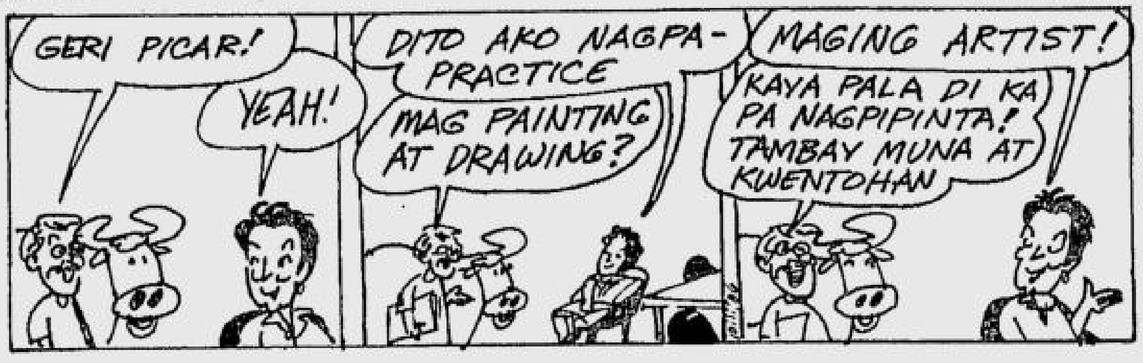
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'M SO DEAD.
WHY'S THAT?
I HAVE TO WRITE A TWO-PAGE ESSAY ABOUT "HAMLET" FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW.
HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU?
I'VE FINISHED ONE PAGE.
THAT'S NOT BAD. YOU'RE HALF-DONE.
I MEANT WITH THE READING.
SO... CASKET OR CREMATION?

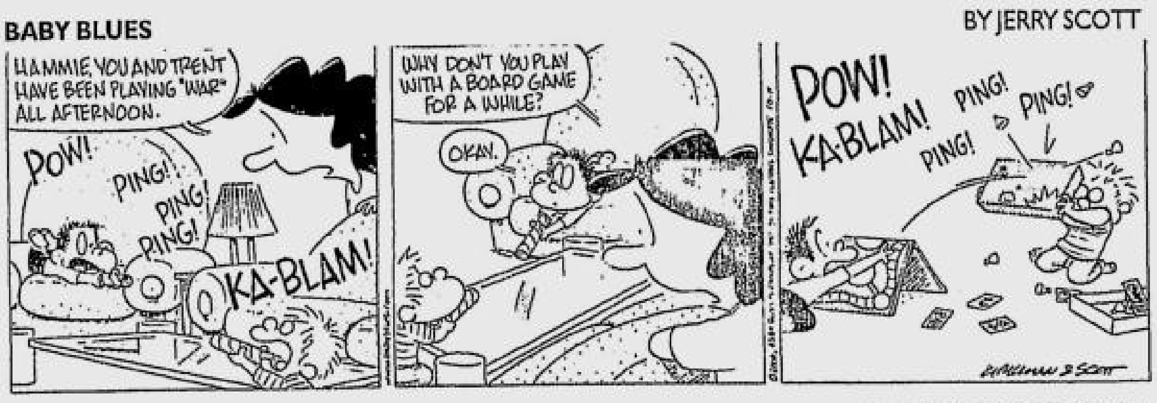
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GERI PICAR!
YEAH!
DITO AKO NAGPA-PRACTICE
MAG PAINTING AT DRAWING?
MAGING ARTIST!
KAYA PALA DI KA PA NAGPIPINTA! TAMBAY MUNA AT KWENTOHAN

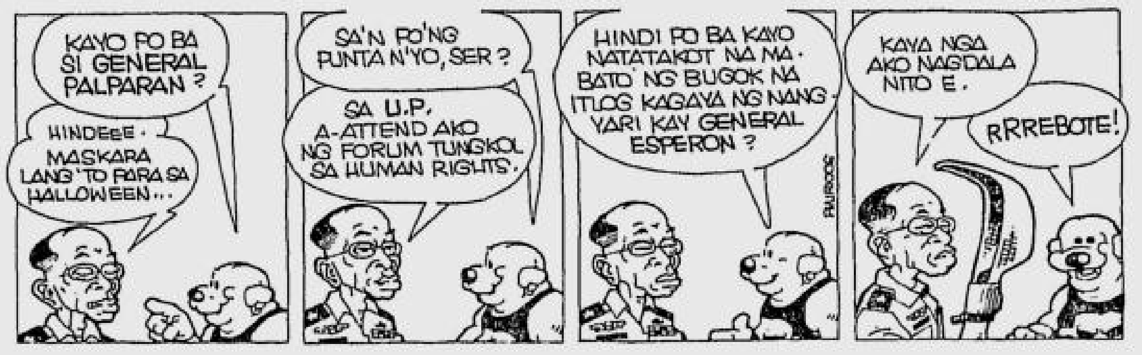
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE, YOU AND TRENT HAVE BEEN PLAYING "WAR" ALL AFTERNOON.
POW!
PING!
PING!
PING!
KA-BLAM!
WHY DON'T YOU PLAY WITH A BOARD GAME FOR A WHILE?
OKAY.
POW!
KA-BLAM!
PING!
PING!
PING!

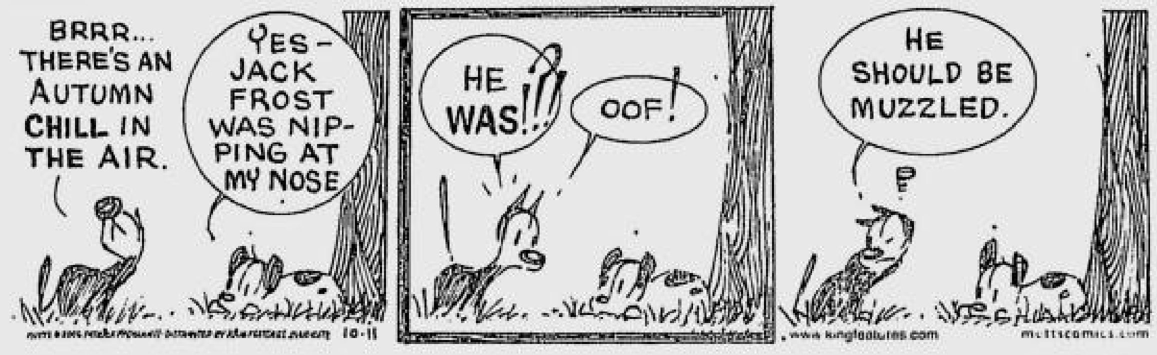
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYO PO BA SI GENERAL PALPARAN ?
HINDEEE. MASKARA LANG 'TO PARA SA HALLOWEEN...
SA'N PO'NG PUNTA N'YO, SER ?
SA U.P. A-ATTEND AKO NG FORUM TUNGKOL SA HUMAN RIGHTS.
HINDI PO BA KAYO NATATAKOT NA MA-BATO NG BUGOK NA ITLOG KAGAYA NG NANGYARI KAY GENERAL ESPERON ?
KAYA NGA AKO NAGDALA NITO E.
RRREBOTE!

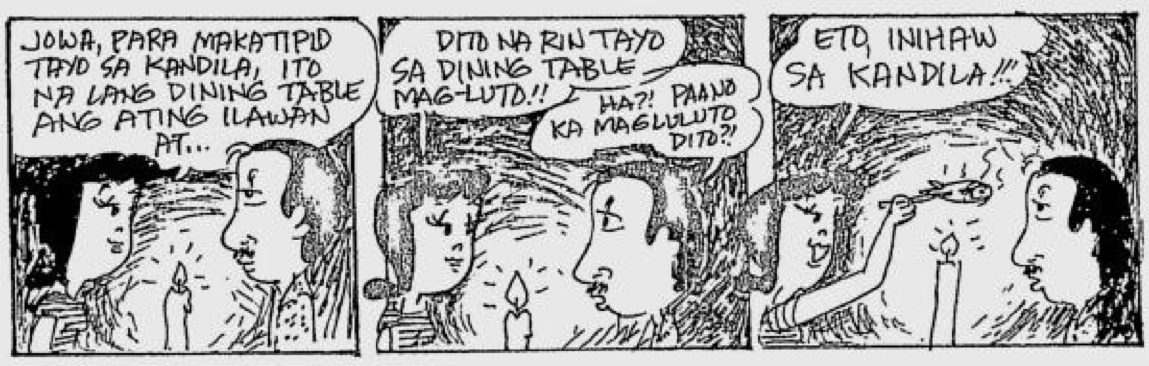
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BRRR... THERE'S AN AUTUMN CHILL IN THE AIR.
YES- JACK FROST WAS NIPPING AT MY NOSE
HE WAS!!?
OOF!
HE SHOULD BE MUZZLED.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com

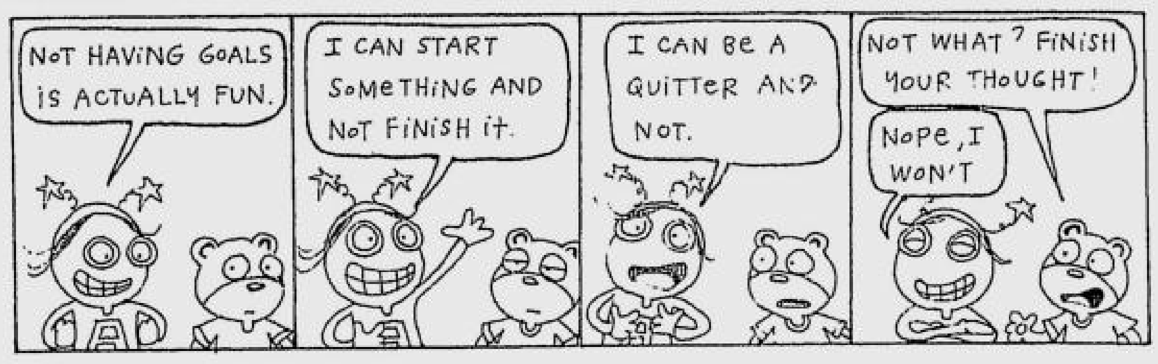
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, PARA MAKATIPID TAYO SA KANDILA, ITO NA LANG DINING TABLE ANG ATING ILAWAN AT...
DITO NA RIN TAYO SA DINING TABLE MAG-LUTO!!
HA?! PAANO KA MAGLULUTO DITO?!
ETO, INIHAW SA KANDILA!!!

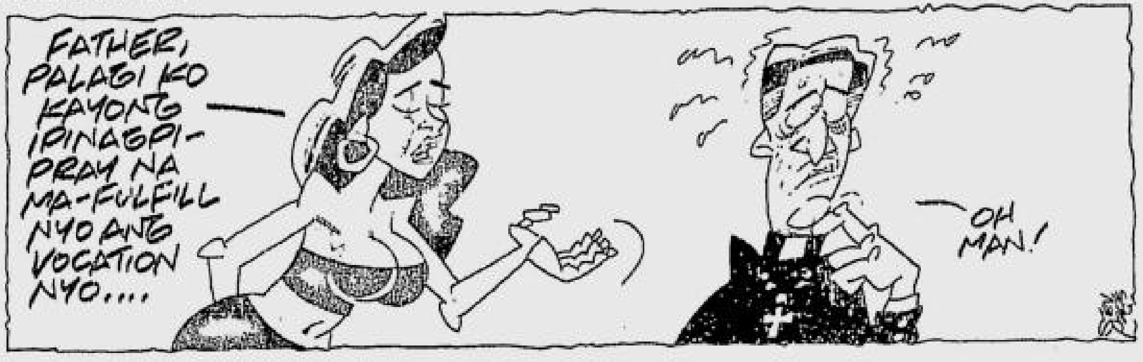
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


NOT HAVING GOALS IS ACTUALLY FUN.
I CAN START SOMETHING AND NOT FINISH IT.
I CAN BE A QUITTER AND NOT.
NOT WHAT? FINISH YOUR THOUGHT!
NOPE, I WON'T

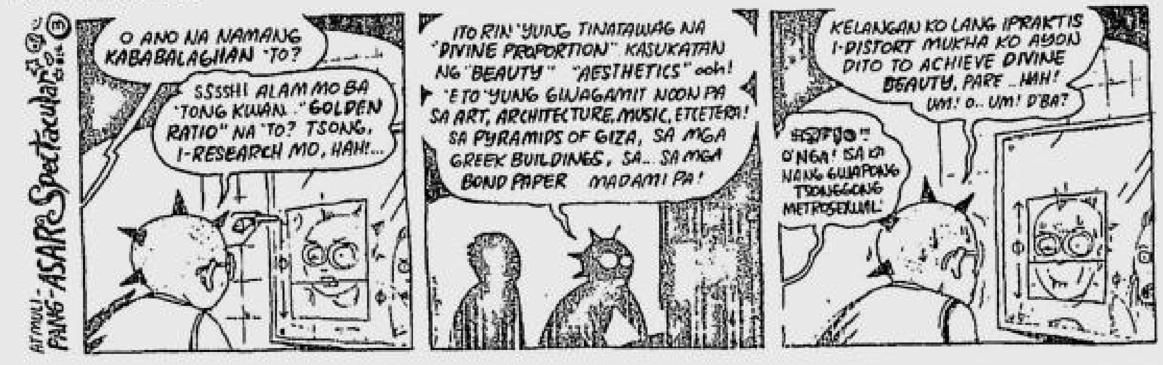
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FATHER, PALAGI KO KAYONG IPINAGPI-PRAY NA MA-FULFILL NYO ANG VOCATION NYO....
OH MAN!

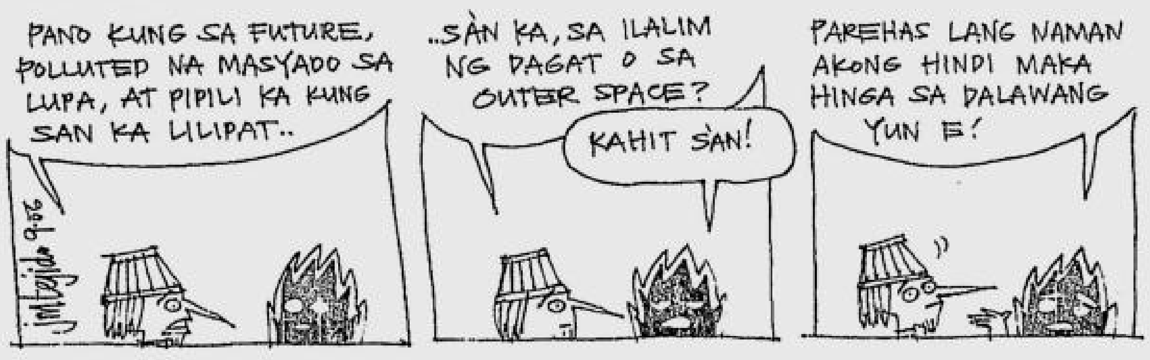
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AT MULI... PANG-ASAR SPECTACULAR
O ANO NA NAMANG KABABALAGHAN 'TO?
SSSSH! ALAM MO BA 'TONG KWAN..."GOLDEN RATIO" NA 'TO? TSONG, I-RESEARCH MO, HAH!...
ITO RIN 'YUNG TINATAWAG NA "DIVINE PROPORTION" KASUKATAN NG "BEAUTY" "AESTHETICS" ooh! 'ETO 'YUNG GINAGAMIT NOON PA SA ART, ARCHITECTURE, MUSIC, ETCETERA! SA PYRAMIDS OF GIZA, SA MGA GREEK BUILDINGS, SA... SA MGA BOND PAPER MADAMI PA!
KELANGAN KO LANG IPRAKTIS I-DISTORT MUKHA KO AYON DITO TO ACHIEVE DIVINE BEAUTY, PARE ...HAH! UM! O.. UM! D'BA?
O'NGA! ISA KO NANG GUWAPONG TSONGGONG METROSEKSUAL!

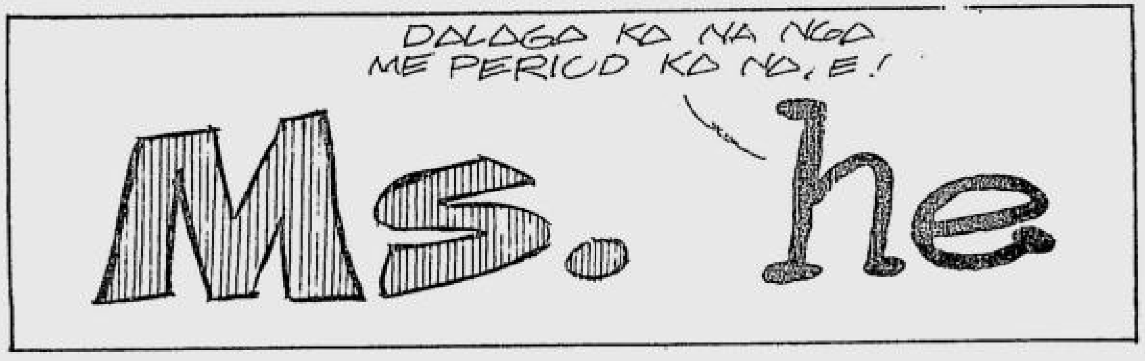
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PANO KUNG SA FUTURE, POLLUTED NA MASYADO SA LUPA, AT PIPILI KA KUNG SAN KA LILIPAT..
..SAN KA, SA ILALIM NG DAGAT O SA OUTER SPACE?
KAHIT SAN!
PAREHAS LANG NAMAN AKONG HINDI MAKA HINGA SA DALAWANG YUN E!

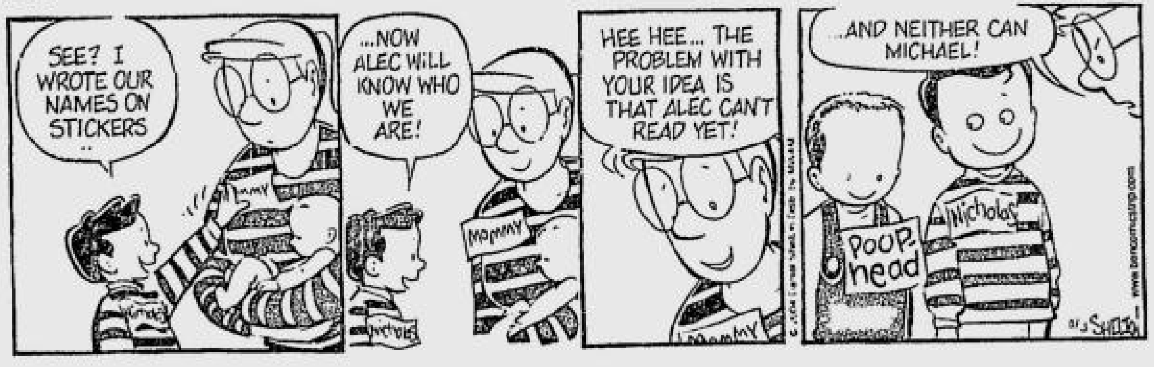
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

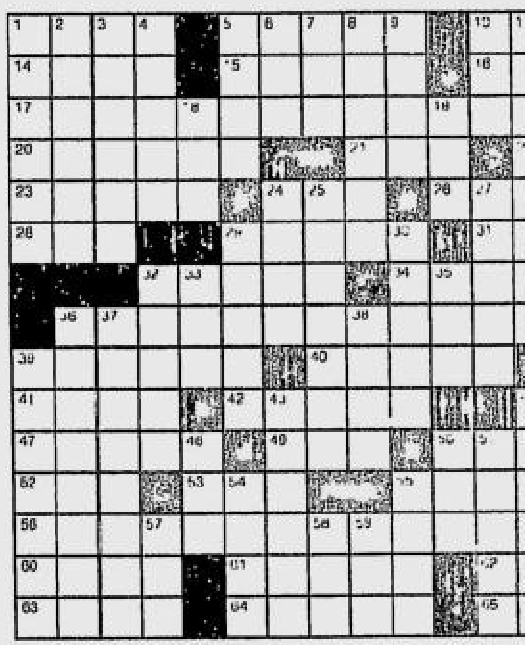

DALAGA KA NA NGA ME PERIOD KA NA, E!
Ms.
he

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEE? I WROTE OUR NAMES ON STICKERS
...NOW ALEC WILL KNOW WHO WE ARE!
HEE HEE... THE PROBLEM WITH YOUR IDEA IS THAT ALEC CAN'T READ YET!
...AND NEITHER CAN MICHAEL!
MOMMY
POOP head
Nicholas

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/11/06

ACROSS
1 Rules of conduct
5 Game similar to keno
10 Activist
14 Spanish river
15 City in Provence
16 __ Stanley Gardner
17 Judgment call?
20 John Jacob and Mary
21 Highlands hat
22 5th or Lex.
23 Minuscule
24 Black, but not blue
26 Philippine island
28 GI's garb
29 "It Happened One Night" director
31 Tiny arachnid
32 Arcade pioneer
34 Grabs
36 Judgment call?
39 Shaving foam
40 Refuse
41 Punta del _ Uruguay
42 Burstyn or Barkin
44 Handle clumsily
47 Cubic meter
49 Massive ref. work
50 Big Apple restaurateur
52 Homily topic
53 Carte preceder
55 Oater bar
56 Judgment call?
60 Turn-downs
61 Deserve
62 Oh, yeah
63 Old dagger
64 Spoiled kids
65 Tail of a lob?

DOWN
1 Smoothly, in music
2 Mistreated
3 Gets off a letter
4 Wise lawgiver
5 Prolonged barks
6 Time-line segment
7 Capp and Capone
8 Gods' beverage
9 Workplace safety grp.
10 Word with Bingle or Alte
11 Form a labor union
12 Raised
13 Night flights
18 Test out
19 Elec. measure
24 Delhi garb
25 Letter
27 Anabaptist sect
29 Core group
30 Man from Manchuria
32 Son of Jacob
33 PGA prop
35 Snaky turn
36 Skillet material
37 One who showed up
38 Sitcom equine
39 Instructional sessions
43 Repair-shop car
44 Writer Marcel
45 Actress Renee
46 Cold time
48 One of Dumbo's wings
50 U.S. defense grp.
51 Czech composer Haba
54 Arm or leg
55 Places
57 Opposite of WNW
58 __-la-la
59 Chart-topper

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	C	H	■	D	A	R	N	S	■	L	A	V	A
O	B	O	E	■	A	V	I	O	N	■	A	V	I	D
L	A	T	R	A	V	I	A	T	A	■	D	E	E	D
E	S	T	■	R	E	F	■	A	F	F	O	R	D	S
S	H	A	L	T	■	A	C	T	U	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	S	S	U	R	E	■	I	C	I	E	R
S	L	A	V	■	A	N	I	■	T	R	E	B	L	E
N	I	S	I	■	L	A	M	E	R	■	V	I	S	A
I	M	P	E	D	E	■	S	S	E	■	I	D	E	M
P	A	S	E	O	■	D	O	C	E	N	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	O	V	E	N	A	■	E	A	V	E	S
D	O	O	R	M	A	T	■	R	A	W	■	O	N	T
E	R	G	O	■	L	A	F	O	N	T	A	I	N	E
C	A	R	S	■	E	C	O	L	E	■	B	L	U	E
K	L	E	E	■	T	H	R	E	W	■	C	E	I	L

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10/11/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're involved in the world around you. You want your finger on the pulse of things. You're imaginative and very sensuous. Despite your active participation in society, you're easygoing, charming and laid-back. You understand the importance of contentment. Your primary focus in the year ahead is close friendships and partnerships. **Birthdate of:** Eleanor Roosevelt, first lady; Joan Cusack, actress; Luke Perry, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Partners and close friends are your main focus right now. In fact, all your one-on-one relationships now offer you a chance to learn more about yourself. (Cool!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Act on your urge to get better organized right now. Make hay while the sun shines. It's easier to do things when you're motivated. (I'm sure you agree.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're a playful, childlike sign. You enjoy the company of others. Accept party invitations. Enjoy the arts. Romance gets a sweet little boost today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Do something to make your home (your nest) more warm and cozy. Be patient with family members and the chaos at home. (If you put out fresh flowers, you don't have to dust.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a busy time. However, it's an excellent time for teachers, writers, actors and anyone in the communications field. You want to enlighten others!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're buying beautiful things now for yourself and loved ones. Today, however, you're more concerned with something that is practical and long-lasting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to change your routine today. Three planets in your sign make you very powerful now. You can channel this energy into discovering something new and different in your world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have the ability to magnetize people and situations to you. This is one of those days when you can actually do this. Perhaps you'll discover a secret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This can be a popular day for you. You're in the mood to schmooze and enjoy the company of others. People are attracted to your enthusiasm

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ambition is aroused now, and that's a good thing. Bosses, parents and VIPs look upon you very favorably. People are so impressed with you now that you don't have to do anything special

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel plans and matters connected with the media, publishing and higher education are definitely promising now. You want to be free to do your own thing today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You can definitely benefit from the wealth of others now. Someone is prepared to give you gifts and goodies or do favors for you. Don't worry about attached strings—just say thank you.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	6						1	
5								8
			1	9	2			
		8		2		9		
		3	9	4	6	7		
		6		7		5		
			8	3	7			
8								5
	7						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/11

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

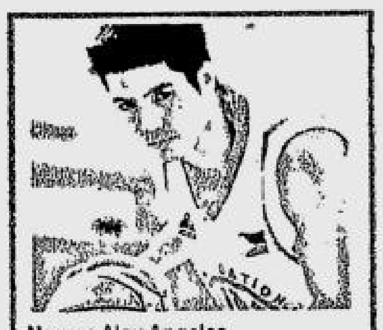
Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	6	4	3	9	2	1	5
5	2	1	6	7	8	3	9	4
9	3	4	1	2	5	8	7	6
2	5	8	3	9	7	6	4	1
3	4	7	8	1	6	5	2	9
1	6	9	2	5	4	7	3	8
8	1	3	9	6	2	4	5	7
4	7	2	5	8	1	9	6	3
6	9	5	7	4	3	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★

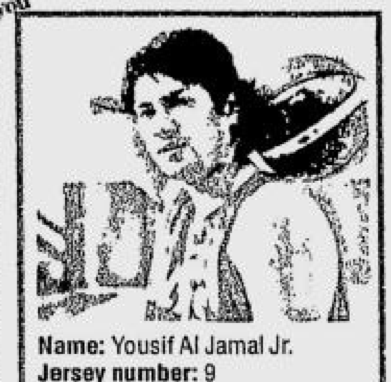
Name: Raymond H. Maggay
Jersey number: 4
Position: Forward
Age: 22
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Championship series, Game 3
Most important thing your coach taught you: To be humble and have a winning attitude
Biggest lesson from last season: Every sacrifice has a reward.
Basketball idol: Tim Duncan
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: To be an all-star player
Ambition: To be a successful marketer
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? At the San Beda quarters or at home

Name: Bam-Bam [illegible]
Jersey number: [illegible]
Position: [illegible]
Age: 20
Course: Marketing Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: [illegible]
Most important thing your coach taught you: [illegible]
Biggest lesson from last season: [illegible]
Basketball idol: [illegible]
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: Play in the professional league
Ambition: [illegible]
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? [illegible] school



Name: Alex Angeles
Jersey number: 7
Position: Point guard
Age: 23
Course: Marketing Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 82nd NCAA season, when we became champions
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay humble, focused, and have the desire to win. Have the right attitude, and PRAY!
Biggest lesson from last season: Always give 100 percent in every ballgame, and always stay as a team.
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Ambition: Maybe get into politics
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Sleeping at the San Beda quarters, at home with my family or friends in Bigaa, Cabuyao, Laguna, or with my girlfriend

Name: JR [illegible]
[illegible]
Bryant/Steve Nash
[illegible]
Beda quarters [illegible]



Name: Yousif Al Jamal Jr.
Jersey number: 9
Position: Forward
Age: 23
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 82nd NCAA season championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay focused, be humble, and always pray.
Biggest lesson from last season: Be patient and sacrifice the bad habits.
Basketball idols: Rasheed Wallace, Ranidel de Ocampo
Personal NCAA MVP: Samuel Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Greatest passion next to basketball: Movies and music
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Classroom and library

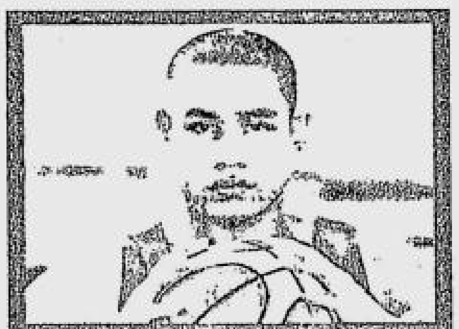
Name: Jed Micah Evangelista
Jersey number: 10
Position: Guard
Age: 23
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: Winning the championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Check your heart; faith without work is dead.
Biggest lesson from last season: Focus is the secret of a successful life.
Basketball idols: Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan
Personal NCAA MVP: Al Jamal
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Greatest passion next to basketball: Learning, singing and reading
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Home and school

Name: [illegible]
Jersey number: [illegible]
Position: Point guard
Age: [illegible]
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communication
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay humble and show some love to your teammates.
Biggest lesson from last season: Respect your opponents.
Basketball idol: Allen Iverson
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: To become a professional basketball player
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? School and the moviehouse

Name: Martin Lloyd "Mart" U. Antonio
Jersey number: 12
Position: Forward
Age: 20
Course: Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: The group hug at the center court after winning the championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Focus is the most important thing.
Biggest lesson from last season: Life would always be a roller coaster!
Basketball idols: Alvin Patrimonio and Shawn Marion
Greatest passion next to basketball: Reading books and learning
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Library, bonding with my sisters Lina and Lea, talking with my mom, and spending Sundays with my Mimhai!

Name: Samuel Ekwe
[illegible]

Name: Jay-R M. Taganas
Jersey number: 14
Position: Power forward
Age: 19
Course: Marketing Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: 82nd season championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Stay humble.
Biggest lesson from last season: *Kung paano magkaroon ng* teamwork
Basketball idol: Shaquille O'Neal
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: PBA
Ambition: To finish my studies
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Classroom, mall, dorm, church



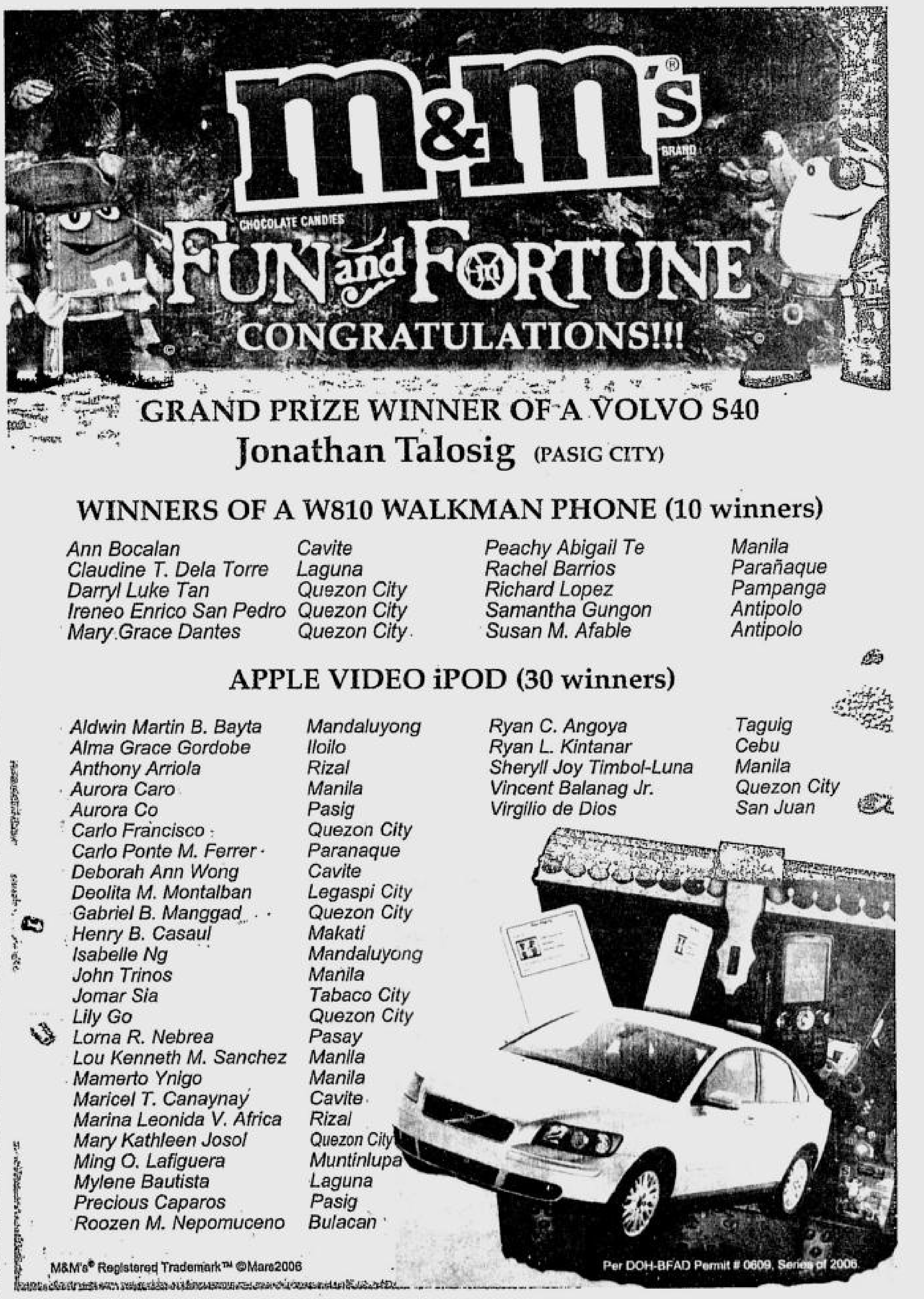
Name: [illegible]
Position: Small forward
Course: BS Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: [illegible]
Most important thing your coach taught you: [illegible]
Biggest lesson from last season: [illegible] 100 percent to the game.
Basketball idol: [illegible]
Personal NCAA MVP: Sam Ekwe
Ultimate basketball dream: [illegible]
Greatest passion next to basketball: [illegible]
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? [illegible]

Name: John Carlos "Borgie" Hermida Jr.
Jersey number: 16
Position: Point guard
Age: 17
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: When we became champions in the 82nd season
Most important thing your coach taught you: To have faith in God and to have a positive attitude
Biggest lesson from last season: Sacrifice is the secret of success.
Basketball idol: Steve Nash
Personal NCAA MVP: Samuel Ekwe
Ambition: To become a professional basketball player
Greatest passion next to basketball: To be a doctor
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Library, or at home.

Name: Kevin Ray T. Espinosa
Jersey number: [illegible]
Position: Small forward
Age: 19
Course: Marketing
Favorite NCAA moment: [illegible]
Most important thing your coach taught you: [illegible] Stay humble. Don't listen to the crowd—focus.
Biggest lesson from last season: Don't stop fighting until the battle is done.
Basketball idol: Michael Jordan
Personal NCAA MVP: San Beda Red Lions team
Ultimate basketball dream: [illegible]
Greatest passion next to basketball: [illegible]
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? [illegible] with my family in Tarlac

Name: John Paul P. Escobal
Jersey number: 18
Position: Guard
Age: 21
Course: BS Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: Of course, winning the 2006 NCAA championship
Most important thing your coach taught you: Believe and just do it.
Biggest lesson from last season: Be mature and physically and mentally tough.
Basketball idol: Kobe Bryant
Personal NCAA MVP: The whole San Beda Red Lions team
Ultimate basketball dream: To play professional basketball
Greatest passion next to basketball: I usually spend time with my family and girlfriend.
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? Home or at the mall, watching movies

Name: [illegible] Ryan [illegible]
Jersey number: [illegible]
Position: [illegible]
Age: 21
Course: BS Marketing and Corporate Communication
Favorite NCAA moment: [illegible]
Most important thing your coach taught you: [illegible]
Biggest lesson from last season: [illegible]
Basketball idol: [illegible]
Personal NCAA MVP: [illegible]
Ultimate basketball dream: [illegible]
Greatest passion next to basketball: [illegible] computers
When not on the hardcourt, where can we find you? School, computer shop, Gateway



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Ann Bocalan	*Cavite*	*Peachy Abigail Te*	*Manila*
Claudine T. Dela Torre	*Laguna*	*Rachel Barrios*	*Parañaque*
Darryl Luke Tan	*Quezon City*	*Richard Lopez*	*Pampanga*
Ireneo Enrico San Pedro	*Quezon City*	*Samantha Gungon*	*Antipolo*
Mary Grace Dantes	*Quezon City*	*Susan M. Afable*	*Antipolo*

APPLE VIDEO iPOD (30 winners)

Aldwin Martin B. Bayta	*Mandaluyong*	*Ryan C. Angoya*	*Taguig*
Alma Grace Gordobe	*Iloilo*	*Ryan L. Kintanar*	*Cebu*
Anthony Arriola	*Rizal*	*Sheryll Joy Timbol-Luna*	*Manila*
Aurora Caro	*Manila*	*Vincent Balanag Jr.*	*Quezon City*
Aurora Co	*Pasig*	*Virgilio de Dios*	*San Juan*
Carlo Francisco	*Quezon City*		
Carlo Ponte M. Ferrer	*Paranaque*		
Deborah Ann Wong	*Cavite*		
Deolita M. Montalban	*Legaspi City*		
Gabriel B. Manggad	*Quezon City*		
Henry B. Casaul	*Makati*		
Isabelle Ng	*Mandaluyong*		
John Trinos	*Manila*		
Jomar Sia	*Tabaco City*		
Lily Go	*Quezon City*		
Lorna R. Nebrea	*Pasay*		
Lou Kenneth M. Sanchez	*Manila*		
Mamerto Ynigo	*Manila*		
Maricel T. Canaynay	*Cavite*		
Marina Leonida V. Africa	*Rizal*		
Mary Kathleen Josol	*Quezon City*		
Ming O. Lafiguera	*Muntinlupa*		
Mylene Bautista	*Laguna*		
Precious Caparos	*Pasig*		
Roozen M. Nepomuceno	*Bulacan*		

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Florsheim
orange sandals
P1,099.75
B+Active shirt
P149.75
Barbie
embellished pants
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embellished pants
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Sneakers (left to right),
Alonso, P799.75
Amos, P699.75
Abelon, P799.75
all from Chicco

OCTOBER IS FOR KIDS AT ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

Kids, get ready to unwrap your most exciting gift this October as **Robinsons Department Store** (RDS) presents "Kids' Dream World," a month-long celebration featuring an exciting array of toys, clothes, fun, prizes, tons of surprises and discounts of up to 50%.

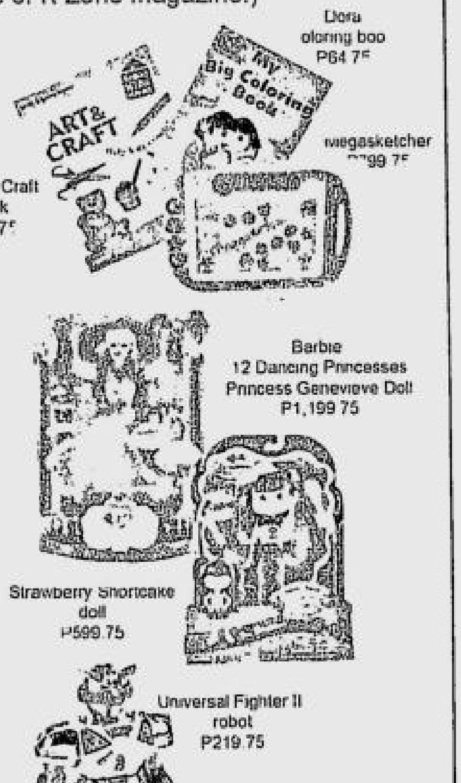
Check these out: toy laptops, cash registers and sketch boards for the tech-savvy tykes; books and educational items for the inquisitive ones; shape sorters and blocks for builder-wannabees and kiddie crafters and kitchen play sets and other role-play toys for little girls, among many others.Young fashionistas, meanwhile, can all be glammed up with pretty blouses and sequined sandals; pearled tops and skirts; strappy shoes and kitten-heeled slip-ons. Teeny gents, on the other hand, will look dapper in collared shirts, long-sleeved polos paired with hip footwear .

Dress up the little ones in all things fun and funky, especially when they don ankle socks and little girls' stockings or the charming three-piece zip-locked under garment multi-packs.

Another bonus from RDS is the chance to buy a cute teddy bear for only P189.75 for a minimum P500 purchase of participating items from the Kids' Fair. And here's another great deal - you can also be one of the 25 winners of ride-all-you-can passes to Enchanted Kingdom for two if you buy P500 worth of kids' apparel, accessories, shoes, bags and toys. Or get a chance to win a three-day-two-night trip to Hongkong Disneyland (with three persons you love to go with you) and some pocket money, too.

RDS' "Kids' Dream World" weaves its magic and makes your dreams come true. So, troop to the RDS store nearest you.

"Kids' Dream World" is happening simultaneously in all Robinsons Department Store branches located in Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang; Nepo Mall Pampanga and Dagupan, Pangasinan; Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro City and its latest branch in Waltermart Gapan, Nueva Ecija. For more details, link up with www.rds.com.ph. Watch out for the *Kids' Dream World Catalog* featuring new and sale items from kids' apparel, accessories, shoes and toys to be inserted in the October Issue of K Zone magazine!)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Barbie

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October 31, 2006
Draw Date: November 7, 2006
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www.rds.com.ph

See poster mechanics for details

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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Two out, 10 to go

Stef and Drae are voted off from 'Idol's' Final Twelve

STEPHANIE Lazaro PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI **ANDRE Ibañez**

By Marinel R. Cruz

PHILIPPINE IDOL" FINALISTS Stephanie "Stef" Lazaro and Andre "Drae" Ybañez, the first two contestants to be voted off from ABC 5's singing talent search program, are convinced they got booted out not because they are inferior singers but because they "didn't get enough votes."

"Unlike the other contenders, I don't have a solid group of voters," Drae told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview on Monday.

Stef agreed: "I just didn't connect with the audience. They all have their favorites. Maybe I wasn't who they wanted. Also, my fan base wasn't as large the others, although my family and friends campaigned really hard."

Drae, the 26-year-old from Lapu-Lapu, Cebu, also believed that his overall ranking in the Top 12 was affected because the show chose to "carry over" last week's votes. "My performance at that time wasn't my best. Two of the three judges weren't pleased," he explained.

Last week, the show canceled its first elimination round due to technical glitches brought about by Typhoon "Milenyo."

Now that he is out of the competition, Drae said he would continue helping the kids of the Children's Garden, a drop-in center for street kids in Antipolo City, and the Child Care Community Ministries, a Cainta, Rizal-based organization that conducts feeding programs in key areas in the country.

Stef, 27, is considering the possibility of inking a deal with a recording company. "I also miss spending time with my family and friends," added the mom to 3-year-old Charlize.

When your name was called on Sunday night, what was on your mind?

Drae: Honestly, all I could think about then was whether I could still sing my piece. I didn't have enough sleep on Saturday night and my throat was hurting. The fact that I was voted off hadn't sunk in then.

Stef: I felt nothing. I just went blank. I was numb. I asked myself, "Am I dreaming?"

How do you feel right now?

D: I feel like I'm floating. *Sobrang lungkot.* It's the end of the journey for me. I'll miss the guys. I received a lot of text messages from people saying they were shocked. They cried for me. Right now, I feel overwhelmed with the love and support of family and friends. Actually, a lady who approached me last night said she lit a candle for me at the Sta. Catalina Church. She cried *kasi hindi raw s'ya pinagbigyan*. I ended up comforting her.

I feel flattered whenever people come up to me and tell me they're rooting for me. I don't know them from Adam, but they support me.

S: I feel relieved. I've been through a lot of pressure having to perform better every week. I missed spending time with my family and friends.

Were there songs you wanted to sing but didn't get the chance to?

D: The song "Wild Flower." It was my audition piece. I had hoped to sing it in the finals, but Onyx (Culala) already sang it.

S: None really. I just preferred to sing the Rey Valera version of "Pangako Sa 'Yo" than that of Vina Morales' for the cast CD that we recorded. Also, we didn't have many songs to choose from in the wild-card round.

How far did you think you would make it in the competition?

D: I really wanted to go for the top slot. People close to me said they're scared for me because I hope too much. They said they don't want to see me crushed. I told them that if I settle for something less, there's a big possibility that I would lower my standard. That mind-set was probably the reason I made it to the Top 12. But I guess God has other plans for me. I accept the verdict wholeheartedly.

S: I don't really know. A lot were saying, "Where did Stef get all the votes when she grew up in Australia?" What they don't know is that I have lots of family and friends here. I was here until I was 9. I definitely hoped to be in the Top 12. I'm just grateful that I got that wish.

Now that you've been booted out, who will you vote for and why?

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Two out, 10 to go

From page E1

D: I'll vote for Armarie (Cruz). She's a fighter. If she gets to compete in "World Idol," *buong pusong lalaban 'to*. She's very strong. She deserves to win.

S: I'll support Pow (Chavez) because I believe in her talent. She's like a sister to me. We've been roommates since we got picked for the Top 12. She's a quick dresser, like me. We never fight about who goes to the bathroom first.

Do contestants consult each other on which song is best for them?

D: Sometimes. During rehearsals, for example, Gian would come up to me and tell me I need to improve on a certain part of my song. Sometimes, I tell him which angle is best for him on TV. We give each other pieces of advice.

S: Not really. We're given a list of songs and asked to pick from that list. We have people like the production staff to consult.

STEF: "I feel relieved."

DRAE: "I feel like I'm floating."

Drae, you got good reviews from all the three judges—Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona—this week. Were you surprised to be eliminated?

D: Yes. But I've already conditioned my mind to expect the unexpected. I had hoped to sing for "Idol" a little more. *Gano'n talaga. Lahat naman kami nangangapa.*

Apart from singing, you've done work for kids. Which do you think you're going to concentrate on now?

D: My joining "Philippine Idol" was part of a long-term plan. I wanted to build influence to get support from people who can help the kids. I will continue singing; I was born to sing. Through singing, I will be able to share to other people the stories of these kids.

Stef, Judge Pilita asked you to shed some weight, will you still continue dieting?

S: I'm just watching what I eat because I suffer from asthma. Recently, I nearly got pneumonia. I had to be taken to the hospital three times because of difficulty in breathing. My asthma makes it difficult for me to support high notes. I also want to keep up with my daughter who is growing up very fast. *Ang hirap habulin* (laughs).

Do you personally think the public cares about size in this competition?

S: I think they do care, although they don't want to say it because Filipinos are generally soft-spoken. I think they are looking for someone with the total package, a superstar.

Do you get advice for the clothes you wear on the show?

S: We have a sponsor for the clothes we wear every Sunday, but on Saturdays, I wore mostly my personal stuff or those I borrowed from my mom or cousins. The black cocktail dress I wore last Saturday was a hand-me-down from my mom.

What comes next for you after "Philippine Idol?"

S: I can't wait to start working again. I received a couple of offers to do a recording. I'm kind of excited.

What's your observation about the show's Bottom 4? *(With Stef and Drae in the Bottom 4 are Gian Magdangal and Pow Chavez.)*

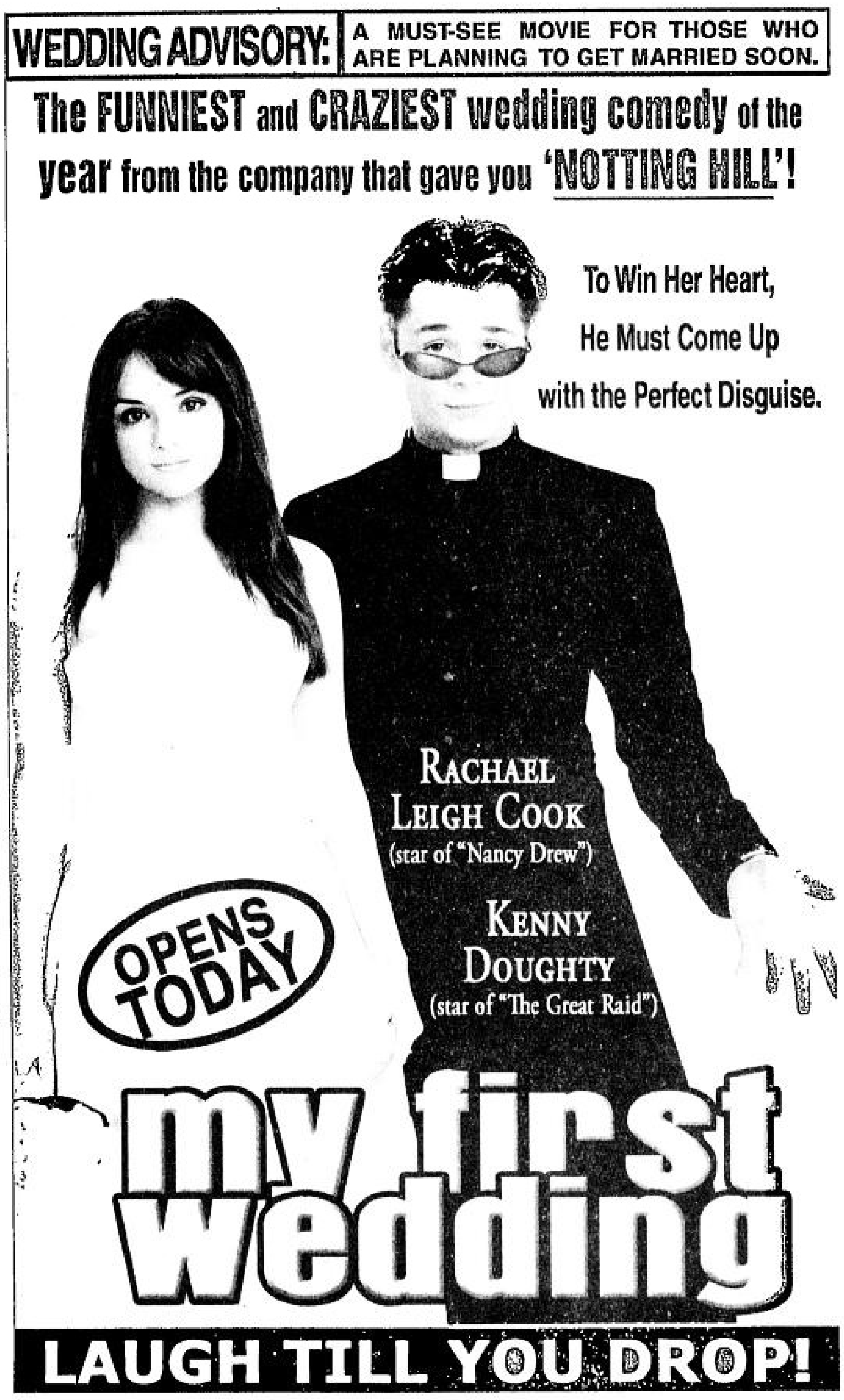
D: *Lahat kami magagaling* (laughs). I think we had trouble in our campaign. *Hindi kami nagkulang sa dasal.*

S: I guess we just don't have as many supporters. I was truly shocked to see Pow and Gian in the Bottom 4. I know that they got a lot of supporters, just like Drae. A few weeks ago, I was asked who I think is the weakest link. I said it's too early to tell. We all had our hits and misses. For example, we know that Mau (Marcelo) is good but she didn't get in the first time. She had to compete in the wildcard round. Maybe when they get to the Top 6, things will be more predictable.

What's the best and worst part of about being on "Philippine Idol?"

D: It's the long hours of waiting that drove me crazy. Waiting for taping, recording or for the show proper to begin was very stressful. The best thing about it is the friendship with the Top 12 contenders and with the show's staff.

S: The worst part are hearing people and reading blogs that put my friends down. I'm like a mommy to all of them. I want to defend them because I know the truth. I get hurt whenever people say Jeli is aloof because I know her to be sweet and kind. I hate hearing rumors, but I know that it's part of this industry. Not everyone will like you. The best part is getting to do every week what I love to do most, which is to perform.



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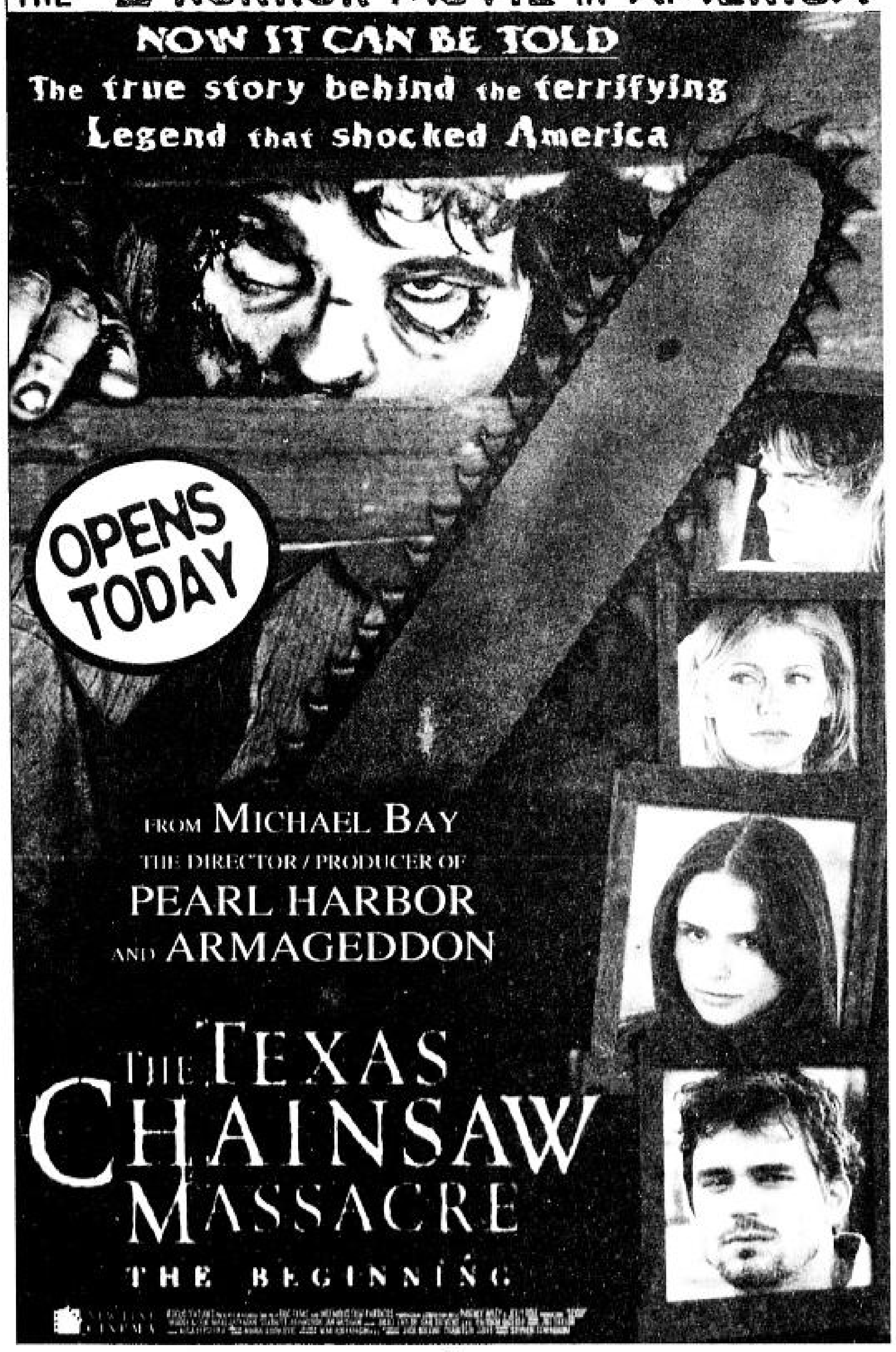

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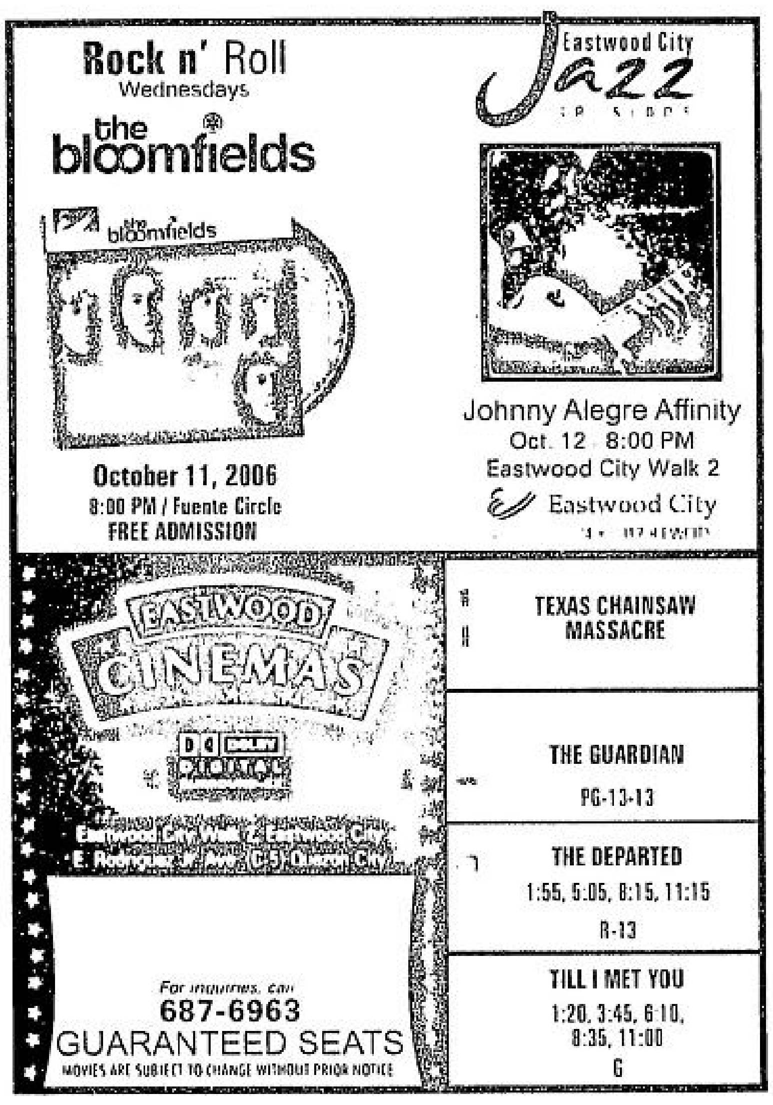

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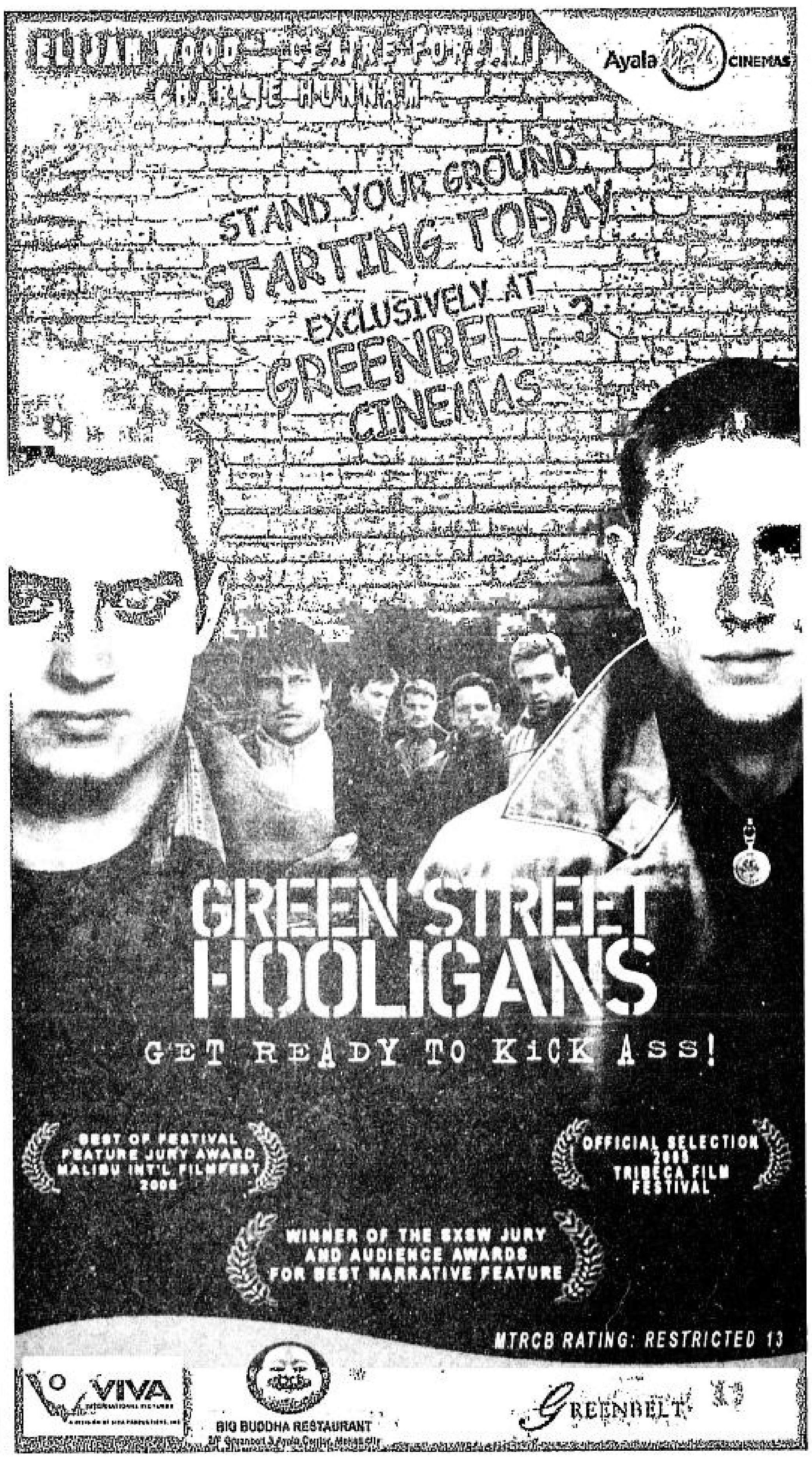
THE GUARDIAN PG-13-13
THE DEPARTED 1:55, 5:05, 8:15, 11:15 R-13
TILL I MET YOU 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G



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GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS
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BEST OF FESTIVAL FEATURE JURY AWARD MALIBU INT'L FILMFEST 2005
OFFICIAL SELECTION 2005 TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER OF THE SXSW JURY AND AUDIENCE AWARDS FOR BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE
MTRCB RATING: RESTRICTED 13
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
BIG BUDDHA RESTAURANT
GREENBELT 3

OPENING TODAY

From page E6

violent world of football fanatics. John DeFore of The Hollywood Reporter opines that "the screenplay's naïve moralizing suggests that the filmmakers are against [violence]. But the film itself is not sure. Fights are accompanied by an enthusiastic metal soundtrack and seen through a camera shaky with adrenaline." Jami Bernard of New York Daily News says "the movie doesn't shy away from the extreme rough-and-tumble of street gangs ... [and] somewhat romanticizes the idea that these kids are all right." Sean Axmaker of The Seattle Post-Intelligencer dismisses it as "yet another predictable gang film ... " Exclusively in Ayala Malls Cinemas.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning

Stars Jordana Brewster, Taylor Handley, Cyia Batten, Diora Baird

Directed by Jonathan Liebesman

The same producers behind the 2003 remake of the cult slasher flick whip up this prequel which details the genesis of the Hewitt clan and Leatherface, "perhaps the most iconic horror character of all time." A bloody-disgusting.com reviewer hails it as "the most physically draining movie I've ever seen ... What separates it from the rest is not only how emotionally effective it is, but its [virtuosity] in its terror ... the most brutal film ever." Emanuel Levy of emanuellevy.com raves that "fans of the 'Chainsaw' franchise will delight in the intensity, over-the-top gore and mayhem that the [prequel] delivers." Harry Knowles of aintitcool.com toasts it as "one hell of a grisly bloody flick. One that dares to add to the legend of Leatherface, but does so with a steady and guarded touch."

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals

With the voices of Kevin James, Courteney Cox, Sam Elliot, Andie MacDowell, Danny Glover

Directed by Steve Oedekerk

OPENING/ E4

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 STEP UP • THX
2 TIL' I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
7 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
8 PULSE
9 DEAD OR ALIVE
10 TWILIGHT DANCERS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE DEPARTED
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 PULSE

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE DEPARTED
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 PULSE
8 STEP UP
FIRST DAY HIGH

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 BARNYARD

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 MY FIRST WEDDING

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 STEP UP
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 SCOOP

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED
4 STEP UP

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BREED
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE DEPARTED
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TIL' I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 THE BREED
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 POSSESSED BY EVIL

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 SCOOP
4 FLY BOYS
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 TIL' I MET YOU
2 FLY BOYS
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

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October 13 (Friday), 7:00 pm
October 14 (Saturday), 11:30 am • 2:30 pm
October 15 (Sunday) 11:30 am • 2:30 pm

Ticket at P150

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•Oct 18	ANNAPOLIS	•Nov 1	INVINCIBLE
•Oct 25	STICK IT	•Nov 22	THANK YOU FOR SMOKING

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T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM
3:00PM 8:00PM 9:30
SUPERMAN RETURNS
5:30PM
Admission Price- P350

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 DEAD OR ALIVE/PULSE
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 FIRST DAY HIGH

PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
THE GUARDIAN
CENTERSTAGE
BARNYARD

CINEMA 1
THE GUARDIAN
CINEMA 2
THE DEPARTED
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 MY FIRST WEDDING
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
STEP UP
TILL I MET YOU
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
FIRST DAY HIGH
BARNYARD
PULSE
THE DEPARTED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

THE GUARDIAN
2 BARNYARD
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 THE DEPARTED
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 STEP UP
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 PULSE
12 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

MY FIRST WEDDING
THE BREED
STEP UP
TILL I MET YOU
THE DEPARTED
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE GUARDIAN
BARNYARD
TILL I MET YOU
10 PULSE
DEAD OR ALIVE
FLY BOYS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

THE GUARDIAN
MY FIRST WEDDING
TILL I MET YOU
BARNYARD
TILL I MET YOU
STEP UP
THE DEPARTED
MY FIRST WEDDING
9 PULSE
10 DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 MY FIRST WEDDING
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 THE DEPARTED
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

TILL I MET YOU
2 BARNYARD
THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
5 PULSE
DEAD OR ALIVE
THE DEPARTED
MY FIRST WEDDING
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU
PULSE/FIRST DAY HIGH
THE DEPARTED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

TILL I MET YOU
2 MY FIRST WEDDING
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
THE DEPARTED
5 BARNYARD
THE GUARDIAN
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE BREED
TILL I MET YOU
PULSE
STEP UP
TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
THE DEPARTED
STEP UP

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

TILL I MET YOU
2 TILL I MET YOU
FIRST DAY HIGH
PULSE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

FIRST DAY HIGH
TILL I MET YOU
TILL I MET YOU
THE GUARDIAN

movietime PROMO

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Simply arrange the scrambled letters below to form the answer

Where did Jake Fischer (Ashton Kutcher) go after graduation?
ADIKKO AAAKLS

Answer:____________________

Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com on or before October 17. Ten (10) lucky winners will be chosen from all the entries received. Multiple entries sent will only be counted as a single entry. Winners will be notified through email.

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NOW SHOWING

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

THE BREED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 THE DEPARTED
8 MY FIRST WEDDING

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

TILL I MET YOU
TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 FLY BOYS
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA

SCOOP
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

TILL I MET YOU
2 STEP UP
3 YOU,ME AND DUPREE
FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

TILL I MET YOU
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 THE GUARDIANS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341285-86

STEP UP
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE GUARDIAN
TILL I MET YOU

Watch And Win at SM Cinema

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 THE DEPARTED
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 FLY BOY
4 SCOOP
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 FIRST DAY HIGH
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BREED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

THE BREED
2 RESERVE
3 WICKER MAN
4 FIRST DAY HIGH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
7 RESERVED
8 FLY BOYS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 THE DEPARTED
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 FIRST DAY HIGH
6 FLY BOYS

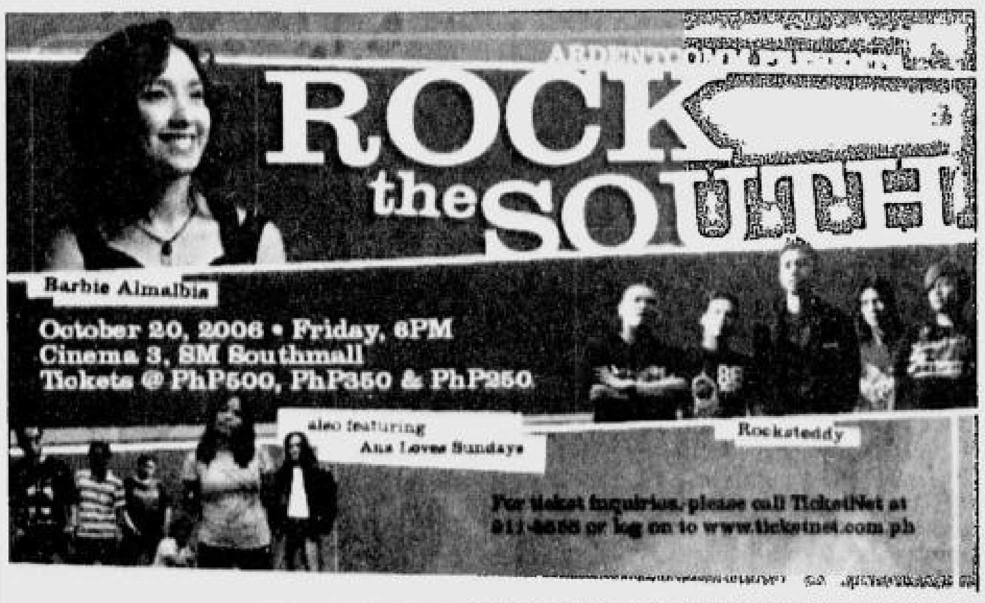
SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)850-2884

DEAD OR ALIVE
TILL I MET YOU
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
THE BREED

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME

Event Calendar



October 20, 2006 • Friday, 6PM
Cinema 3, SM Southmall
Tickets @ PhP500, PhP350 & PhP250

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

1	THE GUARDIAN
2	THE DEPARTED
3	TILL I MET YOU
4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

PREMIERE

	PULSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	THE DEPARTED
2	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3	TILL I MET YOU
4	THE GUARDIAN

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7265150

3	TILL I MET YOU
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	THE GUARDIAN
5	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 8433894

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3	THE GUARDIAN
4	THE PULSE

THEATRES

1	ZOOM
2	TILL I MET YOU
3	TWILIGHT DANCERS

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	THE WICKER MAN
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2	PULSE
3	THE GUARDIAN
4	THE DEPARTED
5	MY FIRST WEDDING
6	THE GUARDIAN
7	ZOOM
8	DEAD OR ALIVE
9	FIRST DAY HIGH
10	TILL I MET YOU

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 (DOLBY)	TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY)	THE GUARDIAN
4 (DOLBY)	THE DEPARTED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	THE GUARDIAN
3	TILL I MET YOU
4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5	THE DEPARTED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	SNAKE ON A PLANE
3	TWILIGHT DANCERS
4	RESERVED

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	THE GUARDIAN
3	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) - (4449346)

1	THE GUARDIAN
2	TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	THE GUARDIAN
2	DEAD OR ALIVE
3	THE BREED
4	TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	FIRST DAY HIGH
2	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6163 or 72

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 (DOLBY)	THE GUARDIAN
3 (DOLBY)	THE DEPARTED
4 (DOLBY)	TILL I MET YOU

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	THE GUARDIAN
3	SNAKE ON A PLANE
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	SNAKE ON A PLANE
3	DEAD OR ALIVE
4	STEP UP

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FIRST DAY HIGH
2	TILL I MET YOU
3	SNAKE ON A PLANE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	POSSESSED BY EVIL
3	TWILIGHT DANCERS
4	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	SNAKE ON A PLANE
2	TILL I MET YOU
3	DEAD OR ALIVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	FIST DAY HIGH

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	SNAKE ON A PLANE
2	FIRST DAY HIGH

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	SNAKE ON A PLANE
2	NAKED EYES
3	PERLAS
4	PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	TILL I MET YOU
2	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3	SNAKE ON A PLANE
4	PLEASE CALL
5	BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

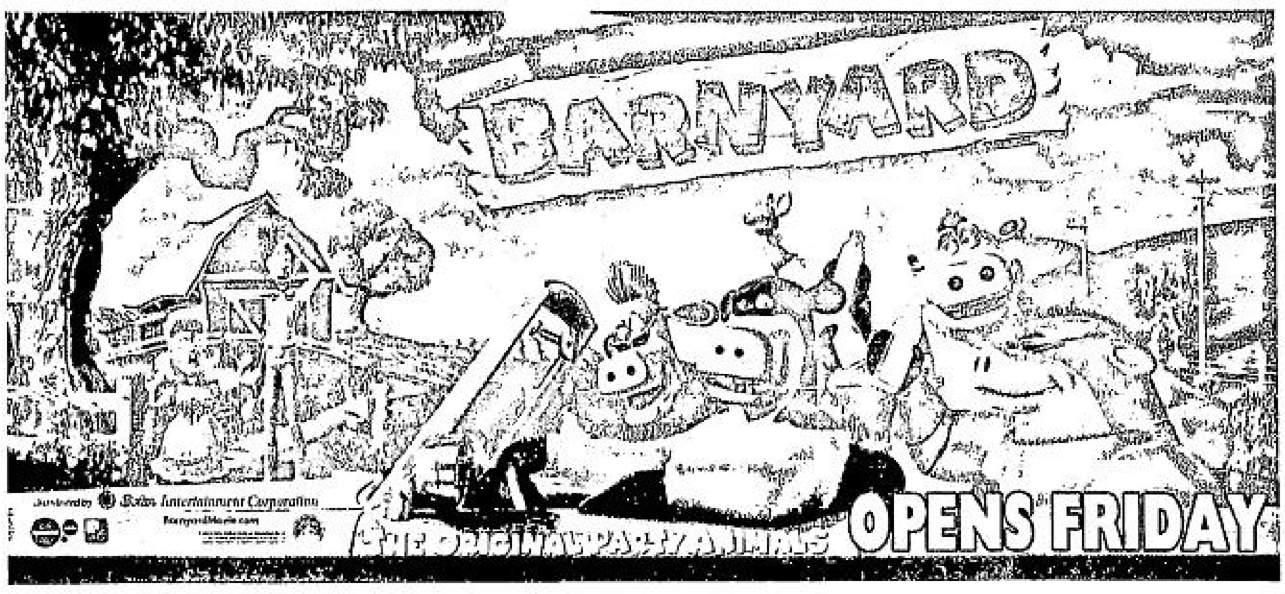
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TWILIGHT DANCERS
2	THE WICKER MAN
3	SCOOP
4	TILL I MET YOU

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE


BARNYARD
THE ORIGINAL PARTY ANIMALS
OPENS FRIDAY

OPENING TODAY

From page E3

This animated feature finds comedy in the premise that, while their human masters are away, farm animals walk on hind legs, talk incessantly and party just as hard. Joe Leydon of Variety stresses that it's "raucously funny yet warmly sentimental ... zippy enough to delight youngsters and clever enough to engage their parents." Marie Iida of Premiere magazine disagrees: "it's the season's weakest contender ... a disappointing follow-up to the [filmmaker's] Oscar-nominated toon 'Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius.'" Luke Sader of The Hollywood Reporter points out: "[It's] more noisy than arty. The computer-generated animation is painstakingly achieved [though]." Jane Horwitz of Washington Post concludes: "Kids 8 and older may laugh now and then at this ill-conceived comic fable."

OPENING/ E5

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

A HONG KONG 2007 OSCAR ENTRY, NOW TOPPING ASIAN BOX OFFICE RECORDS!
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One Empress must choose. Fight for the Throne... or for the love of one man.
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VIVA
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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PULSE R13	MY FIRST WEDDING	THE DEPARTED R13
THE GUARDIAN PG13	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	THE GUARDIAN PG13

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.

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MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE

"PROFANELY FUNNY, SAVAGELY ENTERTAINING."
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO
MATT DAMON
JACK NICHOLSON
and MARK WAHLBERG
A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE
THE DEPARTED
"This year, DiCaprio's toughest competition for Oscar may be himself." -Richard Corliss/TIME
"One of the few films that stirs the soul of those who still treasure the power of movies." -Richard Schickel/TIME
"Scorsese electrifies with 'THE DEPARTED'." -New York Observer
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
www.thedeparted.com

I'm not a priest!
I do!
I don't!
CONFUSED

HOW TO GET CLOSE TO THE GIRL OF YOUR DREAMS AND WIN HER HEART:

☑ A) Disguise yourself as a priest so you can hear her intimate confessions and know her more.

☐ B) Tell her you're gay and hope she will take you in as her room mate.

☐ C) Buy her a car, even though you can't afford one.

☐ D) Give her fake diamonds.

☐ E) Tell her you are a prince from a far away land.

* IF YOU CHOSE (A), THEN YOU DEFINITELY SHOULD SEE THIS MOVIE!

my first wedding

The FUNNIEST and CRAZIEST wedding comedy of the year from the company that gave you 'NOTTING HILL'!

OPENS TODAY

OPENING TODAY

From page E4

My First Wedding

Stars Rachael Leigh Cook, Kenny Doughty, Paul Hopkins, Valerie Mahaffey, Caroline Carver

Directed by Laurent Firode

A ditsy would-be bride (Cook) mistakes the carpenter (Doughty) repairing the confession booth for a priest. He instantly falls in love and poses as Father Confessor to get closer to the boy-crazy girl. Steve Kobak of The Kansas City Star calls it a "run-of-the-mill farce with an undeniably sexist undertone. Most of the laughs come from hollow actors reciting their lines as if they were reading from a Teleprompter." Elizabeth Weitzman of New York Daily News is similarly offended: "The [carpenter's] shameless duplicity is presented as the height of romance; while the [bride's] bizarre nymphomania, perfectly charming." Nick Schager of Slant magazine sums it up, thus: "The [movie's] narrative impetus is stupidity ... the witlessness of its unbelievably naïve protagonists ... 'brainless' fun."

SHANG CINEPLEX

① THE GUARDIAN MTRCB PG-13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	③ TILL I MET YOU MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
② THE DEPARTED MTRCB R 13 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00	④ TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (Subject for MTRCB Rating)
PREMIERE THEATRE	FULSE MTRCB R-13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS

On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks). Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos. Specials last until Nov. 14 2006. See posters and flyers for details.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0608, Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Mall FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY

Gateway CINEPLEX*10 DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

TILL I MET YOU 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	THE GUARDIAN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	PLATINUM CINEMA
PULSE 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50	THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40	TALLADEGA NIGHTS 7:00 / 9:30	
MY FIRST WEDDING	FIRST DAY HIGH 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	DEAD OR ALIVE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	THE GUARDIAN 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

MALL 5

TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30	THE GUARDIAN 12:10 R3 / 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
DEAD OR ALIVE 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	MY FIRST WEDDING 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40 / 5:40 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

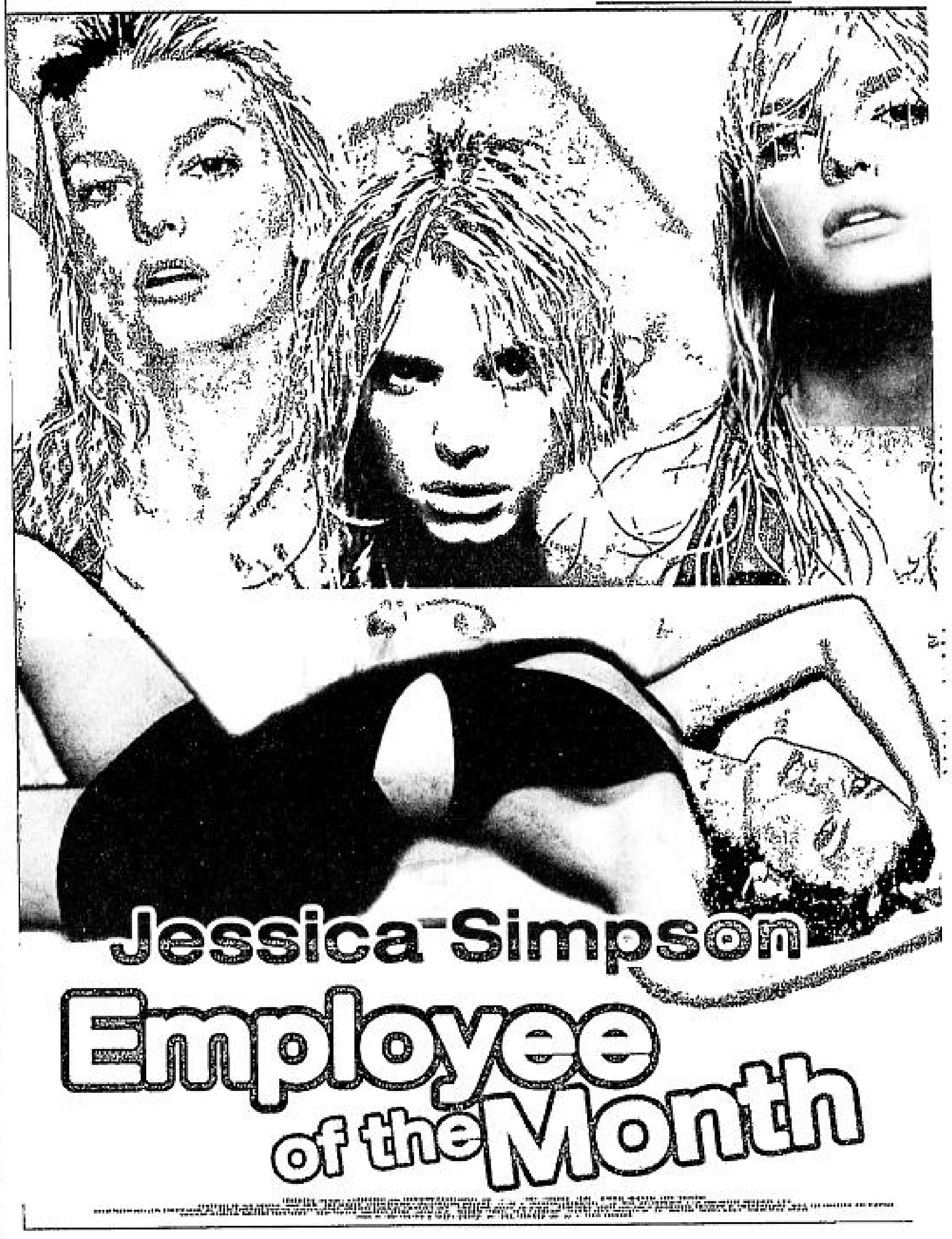
ARANETA COLISEUM

TWENTY - REGINE VELASQUEZ CONCERT ! October 13 & 14 , Friday & Saturday - 8 pm	WWE SMACKDOWN SURVIVOR SERIES TOUR ! October 21, Sat. 6 pm & October 22, Sun. 4 pm

DO YOU WANT TO WIN THIS GIRL?

She's BEAUTIFUL, SEXY & DESIRABLE.

WIN THE CONTEST AND WIN THE GIRL ON OCT. 18



glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MY FIRST WEDDING	2 THE GUARDIAN	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 TILL I MET YOU			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PULSE	5 THE DEPARTED	6 THE GUARDIAN	7 TILL I MET YOU
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 STEP-UP	2 TILL I MET YOU					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PELICULA: 5TH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE GUARDIAN GUARANTEED SEATS	3 GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE GUARDIAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	4 PULSE	5 THE DEPARTED		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE GUARDIAN	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 FLYBOYS	4 THE DEPARTED			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE DEPARTED	2 TILL I MET YOU	3 THE GUARDIAN	4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: THE BEGINNING	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900

Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 9pm

Greenbelt - 757 4853, from 11am to 9pm

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782, from 10am to 8pm

Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit October 5 to 21, 2006	Federal Hardware Exhibit Oct. 6 to 11, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Culminating Activity Sign Language Association of Cebu October 8, 2006	Call Center Job Fair October 6 to 7, 2006

GREENBELT	Cathay Pacific's Planes Exhibit October 6 to 12
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents THE BOOR & THE PROPOSAL at REP's Globe Theater - September 16 to October 8, 2006 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Homecoming of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Philippines September 19 to October 1, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

A Seat fit for the Li'l King

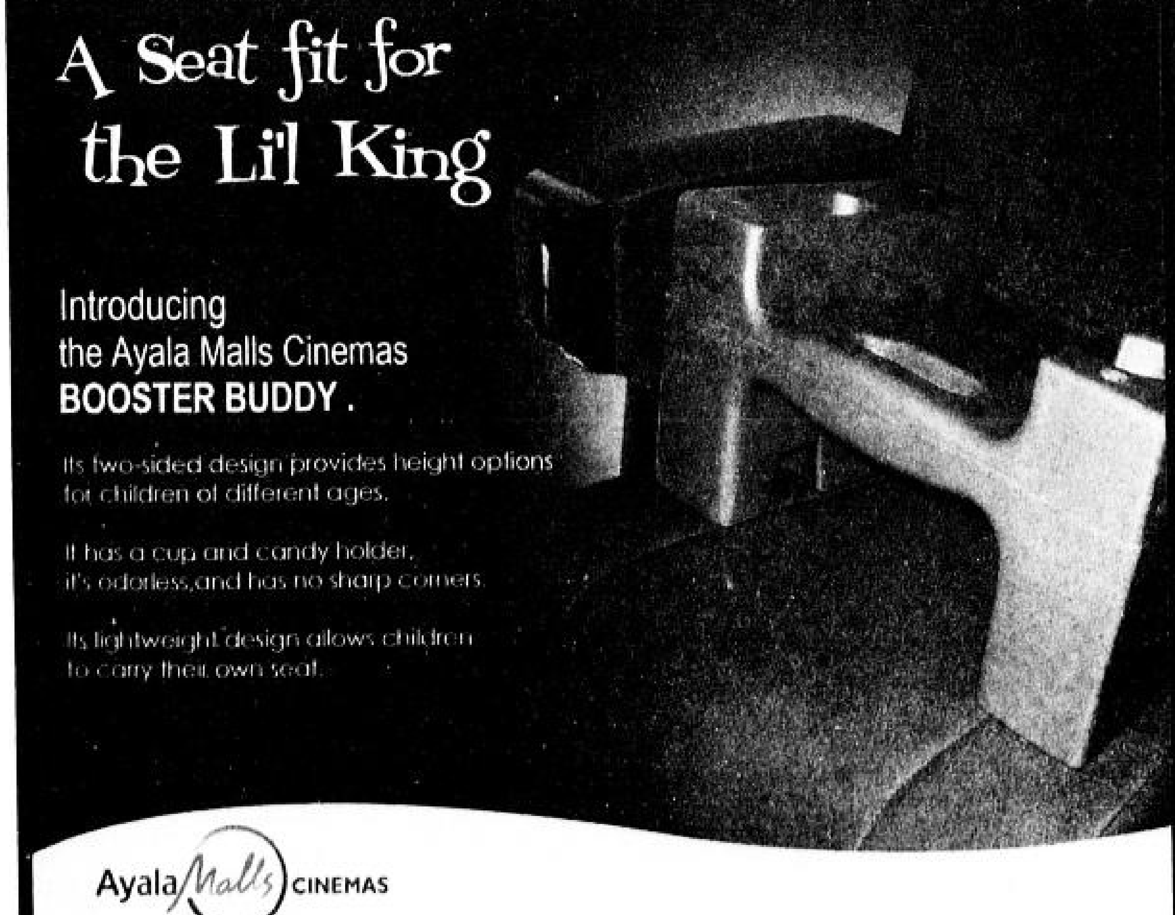
Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas **BOOSTER BUDDY.**

Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.

It has a cup and candy holder, it's odorless, and has no sharp corners.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala Malls CINEMAS



Ayala Malls

Present

COFFEE BREAK 2006 | Coffee & Conversation

Indulge in freshly brewed coffee and leisurely talks with friends at **Coffee Break 2006: Coffee & Conversation.** Kape Isla merchants will offer the best Filipino blends at the Glorietta 4 lobby from October 2 to 15, for free! Only at Glorietta can you enjoy the kind of break that's perfect for lovers of coffee.

Dunkin' Donuts Gourmet's EQUAL Coffee-mate Y&R Globe Broadband 105.1 Sony Ericsson NESCAFÉ Gold HSBC

glorietta

Shafts of broadcast light during the blackout

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE RECENT BLACKOUT AFTER Typhoon "Milenyo" cut its swath of destruction across Luzon, darkened our TV screens and forced us to get answers to our many questions from our trusty—and rusty—battery-operated radio.

At first, we were grateful for the information on the storm that reporters and program hosts provided. Not long after, however, we realized that, much too often, we were getting opinion, speculation or rumor, not real information.

Paramount in the thoughts of many listeners huddled in the enveloping dark was the question, "When will power in our area be restored?" The question was straightforward enough, but the answer turned out to be sketchy, long-winded and befuddling.

Initially, it shaped up as, "Most areas will have their power restored by Meralco by Sunday." Then, it got adjusted to, "We need to first focus on restoring power to key places like hospitals, the electric rail service, government installations and the commercial sector, before we can address the loss of power in residential areas."

Hey, wait a quick minute, that's a major shift of focus from "power back by Sunday!"

Even later, listeners were disheartened all the more when the answer was further diluted to, "We're doing the very best we can, our repair people haven't slept for 36 hours, and power should be restored in most places by Tuesday or Wednesday."

Worse, a number of the radio people we listened to appeared to be asking "soft" questions and chummily supporting the plea for "patience and understanding." Frankly, we expected more listener-supportive reportage and representation from radio, as millions suffered throughout the pitch-black nights and stifling days.

Our recent days-long "radiothon" also brought us up to date on how the medium is being utilized here these days. Alas, there wasn't much to celebrate, since for many of the radio people we listened to, it was business as usual, despite the unusual challenge of the powerful typhoon and its aftermath.

Commentators were still yakking and opining off the top of their heads, deejays dithered and snake-oil salesmen slithered, hosts of religious shows intoned banal truisms as though they were the newly unearthed 11th and 12th commandments—definitely *not* the programming that listeners yearning for genuine solace and inspiration wanted to hear during their darkest moments.

Happily, some slivers of broadcasting light pierced the glop and gloom. We enjoyed a dramatized satire on corrupt officials, a late-night show dispensed pithy advice to the gaga lovelorn, and some good music salved listeners' tattered and shattered sensibilities.

Let there be more shafts of light. Let there be better radio, the next time large parts of the country are assaulted by a natural disaster and its dire consequences. The country's millions of information-hungry listeners deserve nothing less.

OPENING TODAY

Till I Met You

Stars Robin Padilla, Regine Velasquez, Eddie Garcia, Marky Cielo, Jackie Rice

Directed by Mark Reyes

This romantic comedy from GMA Films also marks its first partnership with Viva Films, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. The Songbird, who is observing her 20th anniversary this year, plays a grifter who has her eyes on the wealth of an aging *haciendero* (Garcia), whose right hand man (Padilla) is determined to expose the bride's gold-digging ways. In the process, however, romance blooms between the con artist and the trusted assistant. This is the latest team-up of Padilla and Velasquez, who were last seen in 2000's "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw." GMA Films' drumbeaters have billed this romp as a "crisp, must-see and exciting love story … that breaks away from the usual boy-meets-girl romance … it's the ultimate *kilig* (goose bumps) movie of the year."

The Guardian

Stars Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher, Clancy Brown, Neal McDonough

Directed by Andrew Davis

In the Hollywood tradition of pairing reluctant, grizzled mentors with eager-beaver neophytes, Costner and Kutcher portray mismatched Coast Guard rescue swimmers—part of "an elite group that specializes in off-shore operations." Tracy Allerton of the South Florida Sun-Sentinel bemoans that the film features "Hollywood clichés and the worst, most derivative ending … [it's] further proof that there really is nothing original left in big studios." Robert Denerstein of Denver Rocky Mountain News concedes: "You've seen it a thousand times … a picture that isn't likely to impress with its originality … but [it] accomplishes what it sets out to do with reasonable skill."

Green Street Hooligans

Stars Elijah Wood, Charlie Hunnam, Claire Forlani, Marc Warren, Henry Goodman

Directed by Lexi Alexander

After being expelled from Harvard, an American journalism student (Wood) moves to London and gets embroiled in the

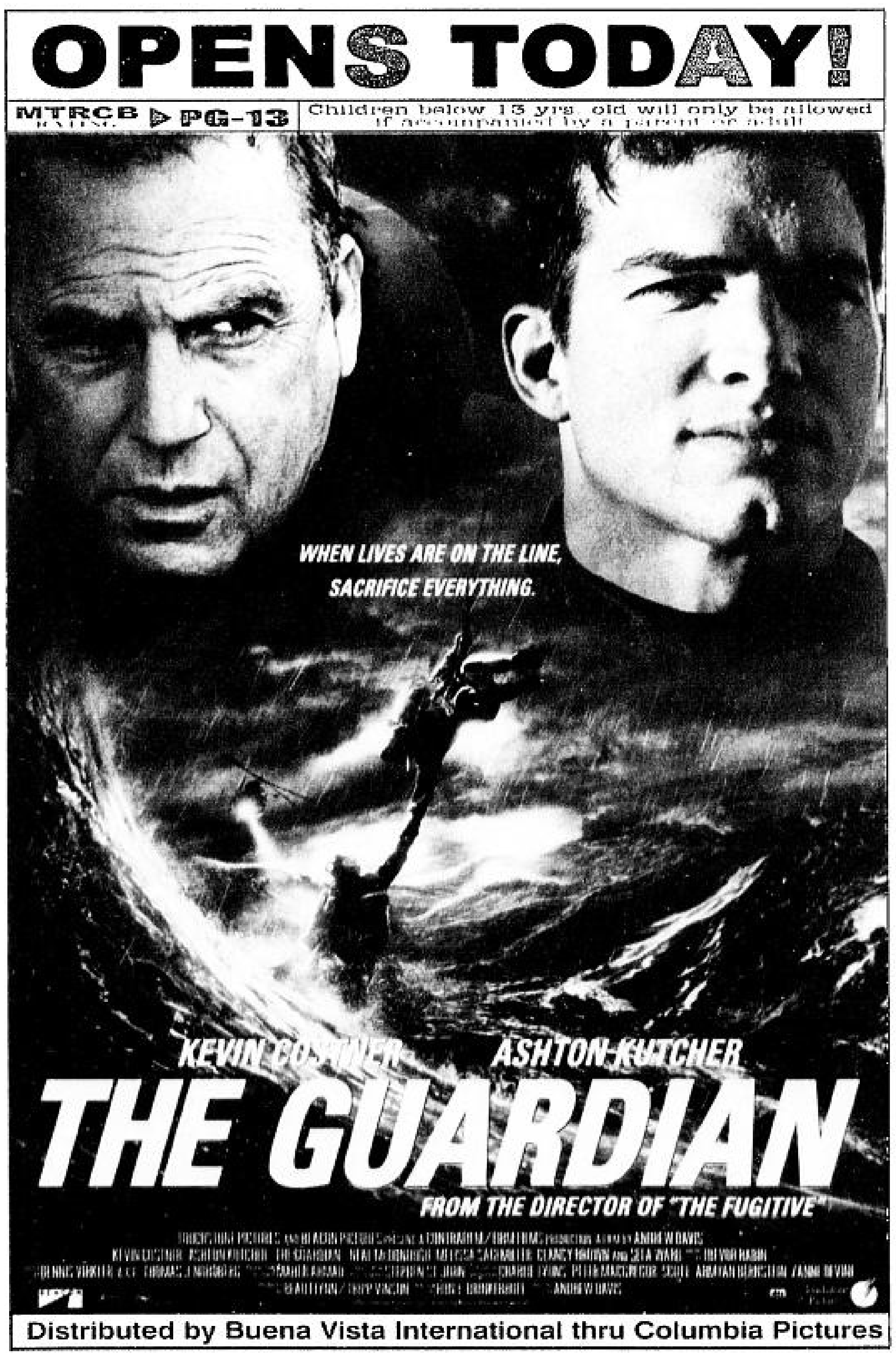
OPENING/E3

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
#1 MOVIE IN MANILA
NO RULES. NO MERCY. NO SURRENDER
3RD WEEK
DOA
DEAD OR ALIVE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 TILL I MET YOU GP
CINEMA 2 THE DEPARTED R13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R-18
CINEMA 4 MY FIRST WEDDING PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE GUARDIAN PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
OCT. 13, 2006 | GENEVA C., AIZA S., TRUEFAITH, JAY-R | 8:00 PM
OCT. 20 & 21, 2006 | GARY V. @ 23 "THE REPEAT" | 8:00 PM
TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY | DANCE NIGHT | 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY | CERRUDO - CLASSICO | 8:00PM
OCT. 12, 19, 26, 2006 | ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA | 8:30 PM
OCT. 14, 21, 2006 | AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO | 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722 4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

A TRUE STORY OF COURAGE AND SURVIVAL
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
NICOLAS CAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER
AN OLIVER STONE FILM
united international pictures
IN THEATERS OCTOBER 18

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
THE MOST-AWAITED ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!
Robin Padilla
Regine Velasquez
"It was entertaining, poignant, and romantic. Nakalimutan ko ang problema ng Pilipinas ng dalawang oras."
- LOREN LEGARDA, Senator
"Naiyak ako sa surprise ending."
- GIRLIE RODIZ, Talent Manager
Mall Tour: SM Bicutan - Oct. 15, 4PM
i never knew what love was...
Till i met you
A film by Mark A. Reyes (dgpi)
Text TILL to 4627 for Smart and Talk 'N Text
OPENS TODAY
Pancit Canton


OPENS TODAY!
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE, SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.
KEVIN COSTNER ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures